

THE
Constant Couple,

OR, A

Trip to the Jubilee.

A

COMEDY.

Acted at the Theatre-Royal in *Drury-Lane*,
By His MAJESTY's Servants.

The *Third Edition*; VVith a New SCENE
Added to the PART of *Wildair*; and a
New PROLOGUE.

By Mr. *GEORGE FARQUHAR*.

*Sive favore tuli, sive hanc ego carmine famam
Fure tibi grates, canaide lector, ago.*

Ovid. Trist. lib. 4. Eleg. 10.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Ralph Smith* at the *Bible* under the *Piazza* of the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*, and Sold by *Bennet Banbury* at the *Blue Anchor* in the *New Exchange* in the *Strand*. 1701.



To the HONOURABLE
Sir ROGER MOSTYN Baronet,
Of Mostyn-Hall in Flintshire,

SIR,

THIS no small Reflection on Pieces of this nature, that Panegyrick is so much improv'd, and that Dedication is grown more an Art than Poetry ; that Authors, to make their Patrons more than Men, make themselves less ; and that Persons of Honour are forc'd to decline patronizing Wit, because their Modesty cannot bear the gross Strokes of Adulation.

But give me leave to say, Sir, that I am too young an Author to have learnt the Art of Flattery ; and, I hope, the same Modesty which

The Dedication.

recommended this *Play* to the *World*, will also reconcile my Addresses to You, of whom I can say nothing but what your *Merits* may warrant, and all that have the honour of your Acquaintance will be proud to vindicate.

The greatest *Panegyrick* upon you, *Sir*, is the unprejudic'd and bare Truth of Your *Character*, the *Fire* of *Youth*, with the *Sedateness* of a *Senatour*, and the *Modern Gait* of a fine *English Gentleman*, with the *Noble Solidity* of the *Antient Briton*.

This is the *Character*, *Sir*, which all *Men*, but your self, are proud to publish of you, and which more celebrated *Pens* than mine should transmit to *Posterity*.

• The *Play* has had some noble Appearances to honour its *Representation*; and to compleat the *Success*, I have presum'd to prefix so Noble a Name to usher it into the *World*. A stately *Frontispiece* is the *Beauty* of a *Building*. But here I must transverse *Ovid*:

Materia superabit Opus.

I am,
Honourable *Sir*,
Your most Devoted, and
Humble Servant,

Geo. Farquhar.

P R E F A C E to the R E A D E R.

AN affected Modesty is very often the greatest Vanity, and Authors are sometimes prouder of their Blushes than of the Praises that occasion'd them. I shan't therefore, like a foolish Virgin, fly to be pursu'd, and deny what I chiefly wish for. I am very willing to acknowledge the Beauties of this Play, especially those of the Third Night, which not to be Proud of, were the height of Impudence: Who is ashamed to value himself upon such Favours, undervalues those who confer'd them.

As I freely submit to the Criticisms of the Judicious, so I cannot call this an Ill Play, since the Town has allow'd it such Success. When they have pardon'd my Faults, 'twere very Ill Manners to condemn their Indulgence. Some may think (my Acquaintance in Town being too slender to make a Party for the Play) that the Success must be deriv'd from the pure Merits of the Cause. I am of another opinion: I have not been long enough in Town to raise Enemies against me; and the English are still kind to Strangers. I am below the Envy of great Wits, and above the Malice of little ones. I have not Displeas'd the Ladies, nor Offended the Clergy; both which are now pleas'd to say, that a Comedy may be diverting without Smut and Profaneness.

Next to these Advantages, the Beauties of Action gave the greatest life to the Play, of which the Town is so sensible, that all will joyn with me in commendation of the Actors, and also (without detracting from the Merit of others) that the Theatre-Royal affords an excellent and compleat Set of Comedians. Mr. Wilks's Performance has set him so far above competition in the Part of Wildair, that none can pretend to envy the Praise due to his Merit. That he made the Part, will appear from hence, that whenever the Stage has the Misfortune to lose him, Sir Harry Wildair may go to the Jubilee.

A great many quarrel at the Trip to the Jubilee for a Misnommer: I must tell them, That perhaps there are greater Trips in the Play; and when I find that more exact Plays have had better success, I'll talk with the Criticks about Decorums, &c. However, if I ever commit another Fault of this nature, I'll endeavour to make it more Excusable.

PROLOGUE, By a Friend.

POETS will think nothing so checks their Fury,
As Wits, Cits, Beaux, and Women for their JURY.
Our Spark's half dead to think what Medly's come,
With blended Judgments to pronounce his Doom.

'Tis all false Fear ; for, in a mingled Pit,
VVhy, what your grave Don thinks but dully VVrit,
His Neighbour i'th Great VVig may take for VVit.
Some Authors Court the Few, the VVise, if any ;
Our Youth's Content, if he can reach the many,
VVho go, with much-like Ends to Church, and Play,
Not to observe what Priests or Poets say,

No! no! your Thoughts, like theirs, lie quite another way.
The Ladies safe may Smile : for here's no Slander,
No Smut, no Lew'd-tongu'd Beau, no double Entendre.

'Tis true, he has a Spark just come from France,
But then so far from Beau —— why he talks Sense !

Like Coin oft carry'd out, but —— seldom brought from thence.
There's yet a Gang, to whom our Spark submits,
Your Elbow shaking Fool, that Lives by's VVits,

That's only VVitty tho', just as be Lives, by Fits.

VVho, Lion-like, through Bayliffs, scours away,
Hunts, in the Face, a Dinner all the Day :

At Night, with empty Bowels, Grumbles o're the PLAY.

And now the Aedish Prentice be Implores,
Who, with his Master's Cash, stol'n out of Doors,
Imploys it on a Brace of —— Honourable Whores ;
While their good Bulky Mother, pleas'd, sits by,
Bawd-Regent of the Bubble Gallery.

Next, to our mounted Friends, we bumbly move,
Who, all your Side-box Tricks, are much above,
And never fail to Pay us —— with your Love.

—b Friends ! Poor Dorset Garden House is gone :
Our Merry Meetings there are all undone.
Quite lost to us, sure for some strange Misdeeds,
That Strong Dog, Sampson's pu'd i' o're our Heads ;
Snaps Rope like Thread ; but when his Fortune's told him,
He'll bear, perhaps, of ROPE, will one day hold him :
At least, I hope, that our Good-natur'd Town,
Will find a way to pull his Prizes down.

Well, tha's all ! Now, Gentlemen, for the PLAY,
On second Thoughts, I've but two words to say ;
Such as it is, for your Delight, design'd.
Hear it, Read, ry, Judge, and Speak as you find.

A New PROLOGUE,

In Answer to my very Good Friend, Mr. Oldmixon ; who, having Two PLATS Damn'd at the Old House, had a Mind to Curry-Favour, to have a Third Damn'd at the New.

TIS hard, the Author of this PLAY in View,
Shou'd be Condemn'd, purely for pleasing you :
Charg'd with a Crime, which you, his Judges, own
VV as only this, that he has Pleas'd the Town.

He touch'd no POET's Verse, nor DOCTOR's Bills ;
No Foe to B—re, yet a Friend to Wills.
No Reputation Stab'd, by Sow'r Debate ;
Nor had a Hand in Bankrupt Brisco's Fate :
And, as an Ease to's Tender Conscience, Vows,
He's none of those that Broke the t'other House :
In Perfect Pity to their VVretched Cheer,
Because his PLAY was Bad—he brought it here.

The Dreadful Sin of Murder Cries Aloud ;
And sure these Poets ne'r can hope for Good,
Who dipt their Barbarous Pens in that poor Houses Blood.

’Twas Malice all : No Malice like to Theirs,
To Write Good PLAYS, purpose to Starve the Players.
To Starve by's Wit, is still the Poet's due ;
But, here are Men, whose Wit, is Match'd by few ;
Their Wit both Starves Themselves, and others too. }

Our PLAYS are Farce, because our House is Cram'd ;
Their PLAYS all Good : For what ?— because they're Damn'd.
Because we Pleasure you, you call us Tools ;
And 'cause you please your selves, they call you Fools.
By their Good Nature, they are Wits, True Blew ;
And, Men of Breeding, by their Respects to you.
To Engage the Fair, all other Means being lost,
They Fright the Boxes with Old Shakespear's GHOST :
The Ladies, of such Spectres, should take heed ;
For, 'twas the DEVIL did Raise that Ghost indeed.

Their Case is hard, that such Despair can show ;
They've Disoblig'd all Powers Above, they know ;
And now must have Recourse to Powers Below. }

Let Shakespear then lye still, Ghosts do no good ;
The Fair are Better Pleas'd with Flesh and Blood :
VVhat is't to them, to mind the Antient's Taste ?
But, the Poor Folks are Mad, and I'm in basic.

Dramatis Personæ.

Sir Harry Wildair An airy Gentleman affecting humourous Gait and Freedom in his Behaviour. *Mr. Wilks.*

Standard A disbanded Colonel, brave and generous. *Mr. Powell.*

Vizard Outwardly pious, otherwise a great Debauchee, and villainous. *Mr. Mills.*

Smuggler An old Merchant. *Mr. Johnson.*

Clincher A pert London Prentice, Stur'd Beau, and affecting Travel. *Mr. Pinkerton.*

Clincher jun. His Brother, educated in the Country. *Mr. Bullock.*

Dicky his Man *Mr. Norris.*

Tom. Errand, a Porter *Mr. Haines.*

W O M E N.

Lurenwell A Lady of a illing Tem-
per proceeding from a Re-
sentment of her Wrongs from Men. *Mrs. Verbruggen.*

Lady Darling An old Lady, Mother to *Angelica.* *Mrs. Powell.*

Angelica A Woman of Honour. *Mrs. Rogers.*

Parly Maid to *Lurenwell.* *Mrs. Moor.*

Constable, Mob, Porter's Wife, Servants, &c.

S C E N E, L a n d o n.

THE Constant Couple.

A C T I

S C E N E, *The PARK.*

Enter Vizard with a Letter, Servant following.

Vizard.

ANGELICA send it back unopen'd, say you?

Servant. As you see, Sir.

A*Viz.* The Pride of these Virtuous Women is more insufferable, than the Immodesty of Prostitutes — — — After all my Incoragement to fling me thus!

Serv. She said, Sir, That imagining your Morals sincere, she gave you access to her Conversation; but that your late Behaviour in her Company has convinc'd her, that your Love and Religion are both Hypocrisy, and that she believes your Letter like your self, fair on the out-side, foul within; so sent it back unopen'd.

Viz. May Obstinacy guard her Beauty till Wrinkles bry it; then may Desire prevail to make her curse that untimely Pride her disappointed Age repents — — — I'll be reveng'd the very first opportunity — — — saw you the old Lady *Darling*, her Mother?

Serv. Yes, Sir, and she was pleas'd to say much in your Commendation.

Viz. That's my Cue — — An Esteem grafted in old Age is hardly Rooted out, Years stiffen their Opinions with their Bodies, And old Zeal is only to be cozea'd by young Hypocrisy — — — Run to the Lady *Lurewells*, and know of her Maid, Whether her Ladyship will be at home this Evening, Her Beauty is sufficient Cure for *Angelica's* Scorn.

(*Viz.* Pulls out a Book, Reads, and Walks about.)

Enter Smuggler.

Smug. Ay, there's a Pattern for the young Men o'th' times, at his Medicin on so early, some Book of Rions, Riomulations — — —

The Constant Couple.

Viz. This Hobbs is an excellent Fellow! (aside) O Uncle Smugler! to find you in this end o'th' Town is a Miracle.

Smug. I have seen a Miracle this Morning indeed, Cousin Vizard.

Viz. What was it, pray Sir?

Smug. A Man at his Devotion so near the Court—I'm very glad Boy, that you keep your Sanctity untainted in this infectious place; the very Air of this Park is heathenish, and every Man's Breath I meet scents of Atheism.

Viz. Surely Sir, some great Concern must bring you to this unsanctified end of the Town.

Smug. A very unsanctify'd Concern, truly Cousin.

Viz. What is it?

Smug. A Law-Suit, Boy—Shall I tell you?—My Ship the *Swan* is newly arriv'd from St. Sebastians, laden with *Portugal* Wines: Now the impudent Rogue of a Tide-waiter has the face to affirm, 'tis *French* Wines in *Spanish* Casks, and has Indicted me upon the Statute—O Conscience, Conscience! These Tide-waiters and Surveyors plague us more with their *French* Wines, than the War did with *French* Privateers—Ay, there's another Plague of the Nation—

Enter Colonel Standard.

A Red Coat and Feather.

Viz. Col. Standard, I'm your humble Servant.

Stand. May be not, Sir.

Viz. Why so?

Stand. Because—I'm Disbanded.

Viz. How? broke!

Stand. This very Morning, in *Hide Park*, my brave Regiment, a Thousand Men, that look'd like Lions yesterday, were scatter'd, and look'd as poor and simple as the Herd of Deer that graz'd beside 'em.

Smug. Tal, al, deral (singing) I'll have a Bonfire this Night as high as the Monument.

Stand. A Bonfire! thou dry, wither'd, ill nature; had not these brave Fellows Swords defended you, your House had been a Bonfire e're this about your Ears—Did we not venture our Lives, Sir?

Smug. And did we not Pay you for your Lives, Sir—Venture your Lives! I'm sure we ventur'd our Money, and that's Life and Soul to me—Sir, we'll maintain you no longer.

Stand. Then your Wives shall, old *Atheon*: there are Five and thirty strapping Officers gone this Morning to live upon Free Quarter in the City.

Smug. O Lord! O Lord! I shall have a Son within these Nine Months born with a Leading Staff in his hand—Sir, you are—

Stand. What Sir?

Smug. Sir, I say that you are—

Stand. What Sir?

Smug. Disbanded Sir, that's all—I see my Lawyer yonder.

[Exit.

Viz. Sir, I'm very sorry for your Misfortune.

Stand. Why so? I don't come to Borrow Money of you; if you're my Evening at the *Rummer*, I'll be on my Way, drink a Health

to my King, Prosperity to my Country; and away for *Hungary* to morrow morning.

Viz. What! you won't leave us?

Stand. What! a Soldier stay here! to look like an Old Pair of Colours in *Westminster-Hall*, ragged and rusty! No, no—I met yesterday a broken Lieutenant, he was ashame'd to own that he wanted a Dinner, but Begg'd Eighteenpence of me to buy a New Sheath for his Sword.

Viz. O, but you have good Friends, Colonel!

Stand. O very good Friends! my Father's a Lord, and my Elder Brother a Beau.

Viz. But your Country may perhaps want your Sword agen.

Stand. Nay, for that matter, let but a single Drum beat up for Volunteers between *Ludgate* and *Charing-Cross*, and I shall undoubtedly hear it at the Walls of *Buda*.

Viz. Come, come, Colonel, there are ways of making your Fortune at home—Make your Addresses to the Fair, you're a *Man of Honour* and Courage.

Stand. Ay, my Courage is like to do me wondrous Service with the Fair: This pretty cross Cut over my Eye will attract a Dutchess—I warrant 'twill be a mighty Grace to my Ogling—Had I us'd the Stratagem of a certain Brother Collonel of mine, I might succeed.

Viz. What was it, pray?

Stand. Why to leave his pretty Face for the Women, he always turn'd his back upon the Enemy—He was a *Man of Honour* for the Ladies.

Viz. Come, come, the Loves of *Mars* and *Venus* will never fail, you must get a *Mistress*.

Stand. Prithee, no more on't—You have awaken'd a thought, from which and the Kingdom, I wou'd have stoln away at once—To be plain, I have a *Mistress*.

Viz. And She's cruel.

Stand. No.

Viz. Her Parents prevent your Happiness.

Stand. Nor that.

Viz. Then she has no Fortune.

Stand. A large one, Beauty to tempt all mankind, and Virtue to beat off their Assaults. *O Wizard!* such a Creature! — Hey day! Who the Devil have we here?

Viz. The Joy of the Play-house, and Life of the Park,

(Enter *Sir Harry Wildair*, crosses the stage singing, with Footmen after him.)
Sir Harry Wildair newly come from *Paris*?

Stand. *Sir Harry Wildair*! Did not he make a Campain in *Flanders* some three of four years ago?

Viz. The same.

Stand. Why, he behav'd himself very bravely.

Viz. Why not? Do'st think Bravery and Gaiety are inconsistent? He's a Gentleman of most happy Circumstances, born to a plentiful Estate, has had a Genteel and easy Education, free from the rigidness of Teachers, and Pedantry of Schools. His florid Constitution being never ruffled by misfortune,

The Constant Couple.

not stinted in its Pleasures, has render'd him entertaining to others, and easy to himself—Turning all Passion into Gaiety of Humour, by which he chuses rather to rejoice his Friends, than be hated by any ; as you shall see.

Enter Wildair.

Wild. Ha ! Vizard !

Viz. Sir Harry !

Wild. Who thought to find you out of the Rubrick so long ? I thought thy Hypocrisy had been wedded to a Pulpit-Cushion long ago —— Sir, if I mistake not your Face, your Name is Standard.

Stand. Sir Harry, I'm your Humble Servant.

Wild. Come, Gentlemen, the News, the News o'th' Town ; For I'm just arriv'd.

Viz. Why, in the City-end o'th' Town we're Playing the Knave to get Estates.

Stand. And, in the Court-end, Playing the Fool in spending 'em.

Wild. Just so in *Paris* ; I'm glad we're grown so Modish.

Viz. We are all so Reform'd, that Gallantry is taken for Vice.

Stand. And Hypocrisy for Religion.

Wild. *Alamode de Paris*. Agen.

Viz. Not one Whore between *Ludgate* and *Aldgatz*.

Stand. But Ten-times more Cuckolds than ever.

Viz. Nothing Like an Oath in the City.

Stand. That's a Mistake ; for my Major Swore a Hundred and fifty last Night to a Merchant's Wife in her Bed-chamber.

Wild. P'shaw, this is Trifling, tell me News, Gentlemen. What Lord has lately Broke his Fortune at the *Groomporters* ? or his Heart at *New-Market*, for the Loss of a Race ? What Wife has been lately Suing in *Doctors-Commons* for *Alimony* ? or, What Daughter Run away with her Father's *Valet* ? What Beau gave the Noblest Ball at the *Bath*, or had the Finest Coach in the Ring ? I want News, Gentlemen.

Stand. Faith, Sir, these are no News at all.

Viz. But pray, Sir Harry, tell us some News of your Travels.

Wild. With all my Heart —— You must know then, I went over to *Amsterdam* in a *Dutch* Ship ; I there had a *Dutch* Whore for Five Stivers : I went from thence to *Landen*, where I was heartily Drub'd in the Battle with the But-end of a *Swiss*-Musket. I thence went to *Paris*, where I had half a dozen Intrigues, bought Half a dozen New Suits, Fought a Couple of Duels, and here I am agen in *statu quo*.

Viz. But we heard that you design'd to make the *Tour of Italy* ; What brought you back so soon ?

Wild. That which brought you into the World, and may, perhaps, carry you out of it ; a Woman.

Stand. What ! Quit the Pleasures of Travel for a Woman ! —

VVild. Ay, Colonel, for such a Woman ! I had rather see her *Ruell*, than the Palace of *Lewis-le-Grand* : There's more Glory in her Smile, than in the Jubilee at *Rome* ; and I would rather kiss her Hand than the *Pope's Toe*.

Viz. You, Colonel, have been very lavish in the Beauty and Virtue of your Mistress, and Sir Harry here has been no less Eloquent in the Praise of his :

Now

Now will I lay you both Ten Guineas a-piece, that neither of them is so pretty, so witty, or so virtuous as mine.

Stand. 'Tis done.

Wild. I'll double the Stakes—— But, Gentlemen, now I think on't, How shall we be reolv'd? for I know not where my *Mistress* may be found; she left *Paris* about a Month before me, and I had an Account——

Stand. How, Sir? left *Paris* about a Month before you?

Wild. Ay, but I know not where, and perhaps mayn't find her this Fort-night.

Stand. Her Name, pray, Sir *Harry*.

Viz. Ay, ay, her Name, perhaps we know her.

Wild. Her Name! Ay—— She has the softest, whitest Hand that ever was made of Flesh and Blood, her Lips so balmy sweet.

Stand. But her Name, Sir.

Wild. Then her Neck and Breast;—her Breasts do so heave, so heave. [Singing]

Viz. But her Name, Sir, her Quality?

Wild. Then her Shape, Colonel.

Stand. But her Name I want, Sir.

Wild. Then her Eyes, *Vizard*!

Stand. Pshaw, Sir *Harry*, her Name, or nothing.

Wild. Then, if you must have it, she's call'd the Lady—— But then her Foot, Gentlemen, she Dances to a Miracle. *Vizard*, you have certainly lost your Wager.

Viz. Why you have lost your Senses; we shall never discover the Picture unless you subscribe the Name.

Wild. Then her Name is *Lurewell*.

Stand. S'Death, My *Mistress*.

Viz. My *Mistress*, by Jupiter.

(Aside.)

(Aside.)

Wild. Do you know her, Gentlemen?

Stand. I have seen her, Sir.

Wild. Can't tell where she Lodges? Tell me, Dear Colonel!

Stand. Your humble Servant, Sir.

Wild. Nay, hold, Colonel, I'll follow you, and will know. (Runs out.)

Viz. The Lady *Lurewell* his *Mistress*! He Loves her. But she loves me—— but he's a Baronet, and I plain *Vizard*; he has Coach and Six, and I walk on foot; I was bred in *London*, and he in *Paris*—— That very Circumstance has murder'd me—— Then some Stratagem must be laid to divert his Pretensions.

Re-enter *VVildair*.

Wild. Prithee, *Dick*, What makes the Colonel so out of humour?

Viz. Because he's out of Pay, I suppose.

VVildair. 'S'life that's true, I was beginning to mistrust some Rivalship in the *Cafe*.

Viz. And suppose there were, you know the Colonel can fight, Sir *Harry*.

VVildair. Fight! Pshaw; but he can't dance, ha! We contend for a *VVoman*,

The Constant Couple.

Vizard! S'life man, if Ladies were to be gain'd by Sword and Pistol only, What the Devil should all the Beaux do?

Viz. I'll try him farther (*Aside.*) But wou'd not you, Sir *Harry*, fight for this Woman you so admire?

Wild. Fight! Let me Consider. I loye her, that's true—but then I love honest Sir *Harry Wildair* better. The Lady *Lurewell* is divinely charming right—but then a Thrust i'ch' *Guss*, or a *Middlesex-Jury*, is as ugly as the Devil.

Viz. Ay, Sir *Harry*, 'twere a dangerous Cast for a Beau Baronet to be tried by a parcel of greasy, grumbling, bartering Boobies, who wou'd hang you purely because you're a Gentleman.

Wild. Ay, but on t'other hand, I have Money enough to Bribe the Rogues with: So upon mature deliberation, I wou'd fight for her—but no more of her. Prithee, *Vizard*, can't you Recommend a Friend to a pretty *Mistress* by the by, till I can find my own? you have store I'm sure; you canning poaching Dogs make surer Game than we that Hunt open and fair. Prithee now, good *Vizard*.

Viz. Let me Consider a little—Now Love and Revenge inspire my Politicks. (*Aside.*) [Pauses, whilst Sir *Harry* walks Singing.

Wild. P'shaw! thou'rt as long studying for a New *Mistress*, as a Drawer is Piercing a New Pipe.

Viz. I design a New Pipe for you, and Wholesome Wine, you'll therefore bear a little expectation.

Wild. Ha! say'st thou, dear *Vizard*?

Viz. A Girl of Sixteen, Sir *Harry*.

Wild. Now Sixteen thousand Blessings light on thee.

Viz. Pretty and Witty.

Wild. Ay, ay; but her Name, *Vizard*.

Viz. Her Name! yes—she has the softest whitest Hand that ever was made of Flesh and Blood, her Lips so balmy sweet.

Wild. Well, well; But where shall I find her, Man?

Viz. Find her—but then her Foot, Sir *Harry*; she Dances to a Miracle.

Wild. Prithee don't distract me.

Viz. Well then, you must know, that this Lady is the Curiosity and Ambition of the Town; her Name's *Angelica*. She that passes for her Mother is a private Bawd, and call'd, the Lady *Darling*; She goes for a *Baronets* Lady (no disparagement to your Honour, Sir *Harry*) I assure you.

Wild. P'shaw, hang my Honour; But what Street, what House?

Viz. Not so fast, Sir *Harry*; you must have my Pasport for your Admittance, and you'll find my Recommendation, in a Line or two, will procure you very Civil Entertainment; I suppose 20 or 30 Pieces, handsomly plac'd, will gain the Point; I'll Ensure her Sound.

Wild. Thou dearest Friend to a Man in Necessity—Here, Sirrah, order my Coach about to St. *James's*, I'll Walk a-cross the Park. (To his Servant.

Enter *Clincher Senior*.

Clinch. Here, Sirrah, order my Coach about to St. *James's*,

The Constant Couple.

I'll walk a-cross the Park too — — — Mr. Vizard, your most Devoted — — — Sir, (to Wildair) I admire the mode of your Shoulder-knot, methinks it hangs very Emphatically, and Carries an Air of Travail in it; your Sword-knot too is most Ornamentally Modish, and bears a Foreign Mien. — Gentlemen, My Brother is just arriv'd in Town, so that being upon the Wing to kiss his Hands, I hope you'll pardon this abrupt Departure of Gentlemen, your most Devoted, and most Faithful humble Servant.

(Exit.)

Wild. Prthee, dost know him?

Viz. Know him! why 'tis Clincher, who was Apprentice To my Uncle Smugler, the Merchant in the City.

Wild. What makes him so Gay?

Viz. Why, he's in Mourning for his Father, the kind Old Man In Hertfordshire t'other day broke his Neck a Fox-Hunting; the Son, upon the News, has broke his Indentures, Whip'd from behind the Counter into the Side-box, Forswears Merchandise, where he must live by Cheating, And Usurps Gentility, where he may die by Raking. He keeps his Coach, and Liveries, brace of Geldings, Leash of Mistresses, Talks of nothing but Wines, Intreagues, Plays, Fashions, and going to the Jubilee.

Wild. Ha, ha, ha; How many pound of Pulvil must the Fellow Use in sweetning himself from the smell of Hops And Tobacco, saugh — — — I'my Conscience methought, Like Olivia's Lover, he stunk of Thames-street. But now for Angelica, That's her Name: we'll to the Princesses Chocolate-House, where you shall Write my Pasport, Aloons.

[Exeunt.

SCENE, *Lady Lurewell's Lodgings.*

Lurewell, and her Maid Party.

Lurewell. **P**arly, my Pocket-book — let me see — — — Madrid, Venice, Paris, London — — — ay, London! they may talk What they will of the hot Countries, but I find Love Most fruitful under this Climate — In a Months space Have I gain'd — let me see, *Imprimis*, Colonel Standard.

Parly. And how will your Ladyship manage him?

Lure. As all Souldiers shou'd be manag'd, he shall serve me Till I gain my ends, then I Disband him.

Par. But he loves you, Madam.

Lure. Therefore I scorn him; I hate all that don't love me, And slight all that do: Would his whole deluding Sex

Admir'd me, thus wou'd I slight them all ; my Virgin and Unwary Innocence was wrong'd by faithless Man,
 But now Glance Eyes, Plot Brain, Dissemble Face,
 Lye Tongue, and be a second Eve to Tempt, Seduce, and
 Damn the Treacherous kind —— Let me survey my Captives ——
 The Colonel leads the Van, next Mr. Wizard, he courts me
 Out of the Practice of Piety, therefore is a Hypocrite !
 Then Clincher, he Adores me with Orangery, and is
 Consequently a Fool ; then my Old Merchant, Alderman
 Smuggler, he's a Compound of both —— out of which
 Medley of Lovers, if I don't make good Diversion —— What d'ye think Party ?

Parl. I think, Madam, I'm like to be very Virtuous in your Service,
 If you teach me all those Tricks that you use to your Lovers.

Lure. You're a Fool, Child ; observe this, that tho' a Women Swear, For-swear, Lie, Dissemble, Back-bite, be Proud, Vain, Malitious, Any Thing, if she secures the Main Chance, she's still Virtuous, That's a Maxim.

Parl. I can't be perswaded tho', Madam, but that you really Lov'd Sir Harry Wildair in Paris.

Lure. Of all the Lovers I ever had, he was my greatest Plague, for I cou'd never make him uneasy ; I left him involv'd in a Duel upon my Account, I long to know whether the Fop be kill'd or not.

Enter Standard.

O Lord, no sooner talk of Killing, but the Souldier is Conjur'd up ; you're upon hard Duty, Colonel, to serve your King, your Country, and a Mistress too.

Stand. The latter, I must confess, is the harder ; for, in War, Madam, we can be relieved in our Duty : but, in Love, who wou'd take our Post is our Enemy : Emulation in Glory is transporting, but Rivals here intolerable.

Lure. Those that bear away the Prize in the Field, should boast the same Success in the Bed-chamber ; and, I think, considering the Weakness of our Sex, we should make those our Companions who can be our Champions.

Stand. I once, Madam, hop'd the Honour of defending you from all Injuries, thro' a Title to your Lovely Person, but now my Love must attend my Fortune. This Commission, Madam, was my Pasport to the Fair ; adding a Nobleness to my Passion, it Stampt a value on my Love ; 'twas once the Life of Honour, but now its Hearse ; and, with it, must my Love be Bury'd.

Parl. What ! Disbanded, Colonel ?

Stand. Yes, Mrs. Party.

Parl. Fough, the Naneous Fellow, he Stinks of Poverty already. (Aside.

Lure. His Misfortune troubles me, 'cause it may prevent my Designs. (Aside

Stand. I'll chuse, Madam, rather to destroy my Passion by Absence Abroad, than have it Starv'd at Home.

Lure. I'm Sorry, Sir, you have so mean an Opinion of my Affection, as to imagine it founded upon your Fortune.

The Constant Couple.

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And to convince you of your mistake, here I vow, by all that's Sacred, I own the same Affection now as before. Let it suffice, my Fortune is considerable.

Stand. No, Madam, no ; I'll never be a Charge to her I Love : The Man that sells himself for Gold is the worst of Prostitutes.

Lure. Now were he any other Creature but a Man, I con'd Love him. (aside.)

Stand. This only last Request I make, that no Title recommend a Fool Of-fice introduce a Knave, nor a Coat a Coward to my place in your Affections ; so farewell my Country, and adieu my Love. (Exit.)

Lure. Now the Devil take thee for being so Honourable : Here, Party, call him back, I shall lose half my Diversion Else ; now for a Trial of Skill. Re-enter Colonel.

Sir, I hope you'll Pardon my Curiosity ;

When do you take your Journey ?

Stand. To Morrow Morning, early, Madam.

Lure. So suddenly ! Which way are you design'd to Travel ?

Stand. That I can't yet resolve on.

Lure. Pray, Sir, tell me, pray Sir, I Intreat you ; Why are you so obstinate ?

Stand. Why are you so curious, Madam ?

Lure. Because —

Stand. What ?

Lure. Because, I, I, —

Stand. Because ! What, Madam ? — Pray tell me.

Lure. Because I design — to follow you. (Crying.)

Stand. Follow me ! by all that's Great ! I ne're was Proud

Before ; but Love from such a Creature might

Swell the Vanity of the Proudest Prince ; follow me !

By Heavens thou shalt not. What ! expose thee to the

Hazards of a Camp — Rather I'll stay, and here bear

The Contempt of Fools, and worst of Fortune.

Lure. We need not, shall not ; my Estate for both is sufficient.

Stand. Thy Estate ! no, I'll turn a Knave, and Purchase one, my self. Cringe to that Proud Man I Undermine, and Fawn on him that I won'd bite to Death : I'll tip my Tongue with Flattery, and Smooth thy Face with Sighes ; I'll turn Pimp, Informer, Office-broker, nay Coward, to be Great ; and sacrifice it all to thee, my Generous Fair.

Lure. And I'll Dissemble, Lye, Swear, Jilt, any Thing, but I'd Reward thy Love, and Recompence thy Noble Passion.

Stand. Sir Harry, Ha ! ha ! ha ! Poor Sir Harry ; Ha, ha, ha. Rather Kiss her Hand than the Pope's Toe ; Ha, ha, ha.

Lure. What Sir Harry ? Colonel, What Sir Harry !

Stand. Sir Harry Wildair, Madam —

Lure. What ! Is he come over ?

Stand. Ay, and he told me — but I don't believe a Syllable on't.

Lure. What did he tell you ?

Stand. Only call'd you his *Mistress*, and pretending to be extravagant in your Commendation, would vainly insinuate the Praise of his own Judgment and Good Fortune in a Choice.

The Constant Couple.

Lure. How easily is the vanity of Fops tickled by our Sex !

Stand. Why, your Sex is the vanity of Fops.

Lure. O' my Conscience, I believe so ; this Gentleman, because he Danc'd well, I pitch'd on for a Partner at a Ball in *Paris*, and ever since he has so persecuted me with Letters, Songs, Dances, Serenading, Flattery, Foppery, and Noise, that I was forc'd to fly the Kingdom ——— And I warrant you he made you Jealous.

Stand. Faith, *Madam*, I was a little uneasy.

Lure. You shall have a plentiful Revenge, I'll send him back all his Foolish Letters, Songs and Verses, and you your self shall carry 'em, 'twill afford you opportunity of Triumphing, and free me from his farther impertinence ; for of all Men, he's my Aversion. I'll run and fetch them instantly.

Stand. Dear *Madam*, a rare Project, how I shall bait him, like *Alton* with his own Dogs — Well, *Mrs. Parley*, 'tis order'd, by *Act of Parliament*, that you receive no more Pieces, *Mrs. Parley* ———

Parl. 'Tis Provided, by the same *Act*, that you send no more Messages by me, good Colonel ; you must not pretend to send any more Letters, unless you can Pay the Postage.

Stand. Come, come ! don't be Mercenary, take Example by your Lady, be Honourable.

Parl. A lack-a-day, Sir, it shows as Ridiculous and Haughty for us to imitate our Better's in their Honour, as in their Finery ; leave Honour to Nobility that can support it, we, Poor Folks, Colonel, have no pretence to't ; and truly, I think, Sir, that your Honour shou'd be Cashier'd with your Leading-Staff.

Stand. 'Tis one of the greatest Curses of Poverty, to be the Jest of Chamber-maids !

Enter *Lurewell*.

Lure. Here's the *Packet*, Colonel, the whole *Magazine* of *Lover Artillery* ;
(Gives him the *Packet*.)

Stand. Which, since I have gain'd, I will Turn upon the Enemy ;
Madam, I'll bring you the News of my Victory this Evening.

Poor *Sir Harry* : Ha, ha, ha.

[Exit.]

Lure. To the Right About, as you were ; March Colonel : Ha, ha, ha.

Vain Man, who boasts of study'd Parts and Wiles ;
Nature, in us, your deepest Art beguiles,
Stamping deep Cunning in our Frowns and Smiles.
You Toil for Art, your Intellects you trace ;
Woman, without a Thought, bears Policy in her Face.

A C T. II.

A C T . I I .

S C E N E , Clincher Junior's Lodgings.

Enter Clincher opening a Letter, Servant following.

Clin. — Reads.

Dear Brother :

I will see you presently, I have sent this Lad to wait on you, be can Instruct you in the Fashions of the Town ; I am your Affectionate Brother,

Clincher.

Very well ; And what's your Name, Sir ?

Dick. My Name is Dicky, Sir.

Clin. Dicky !

Dick. Ay, Dicky, Sir.

Clin. Very well ; a pretty Name ! And what can you do, Mr. Dicky ?

Dick. Why Sir I can Powder a Wig, and Pick up a Whore.

Clin. O Lord ! O Lord ! a Whore ! Why are there many Whores in this Town ?

Dic. Ha, ha, ha, many Whores ! there's a Question indeed ; why, Sir, there are above Five hundred Surgeons in Town — Harkee, Sir, do you see that Woman there in the Velvet Scarf, and Red Knots ?

Clin. Ay, Sir ; What then ?

Dick. Why she shall be at your Service in thee Minutes,

As I'm a Piup.

Clin. O Jupiter Ammon ! why she's a Gentlewoman.

Dick. A Gentlewoman ! Why so are all the Whores in Town, Sir.

Enter Clincher Senior.

Clin. sen. Brother, you're welcome to London !

Clin. jun. I thought, Brother, you ow'd so much to the Memory of my Father, as to wear Mourning for his Death.

Clin. sen. Why so I do, Fool ; I wear this because I have the Estate, And you wear that, because you have nor the Estate.

You have cause to Mourn indeed, Brother. Well Brother, I'm glad to see, fare you well.

(Going.)

Clin. jun. Stay, stay Brother ; Where are you going ?

Clin. sen. How natural 'tis for a Country Booby to ask Impertinent Questions. Harkee, Sir ; Is not my Father Dead ?

Clin. jun. Ay, ay, to my Sorrow.

Clin. sen. No matter for that, he is Dead ; And am not I a young Powder'd Extravagant English Heir ?

Clin. jun. Very right, Sir.

Clin. sen. Why then, Sir, you may be sure that I am going to the Tubke, Sir.

The Constant Couple.

Clin. jun. Jubilee ! What's that ?

Clin. sen. Jubilee ! Why the Jubilee is —— Faith I don't know what it is.

Dick. Why the Jubilee is the same thing with our Lord Mayor's-day in the City ; there will be Pageants, and Squibs, and Racy Shows, and all that Sir.

Clin. jun. And must you go so soon Brother ?

Clin. sen. Yes, Sir, for I must stay a Month in Amsterdam, to Study Poetry.

Clin. jun. Then I suppose, Brother, you Travel through Muscovy to learn Fashions, Don't you, Brother ?

Clin. sen. Brother ! Prithee Robin don't call me Brother ; Sir will do every jot as well.

Clin. jun. O Jupiter Ammon ! Why so ?

Clin. sen. Because People will imagin that you have a spight at me —— But have you seen your Cousin Angelica yet, and her Mother the Lady Darling ?

Clin. jun. No : my Dancing-Master has not been with me yet. How shall I Salute them, Brother ?

Clin. sen. P'shaw, that's easie, 'tis only two Scrapes, a Kiss, and Your Humble Servant : I'll tell you more when I come from the Jubilee. Come along.

[Exeunt.

S C E N E, *Lady Darling's HOUSE.*

Enter Wildair with a Letter.

Wild. **L**ike Light and Heat incorporate we lay ;
We blest the Night, and curs'd the coming Day.

Well, if this Paper-kite Flies sure, I'm secure of my Game —— Hump ! the prettiest Bordel I have seen, a very stately genteel one (Footmen cross the stage Hey day ! Equipage too ! Now for a Bawd by the Curtesy, and a Whore with a Coat of Arms —— s'Death, I'm afraid I've mistaken the House.

Enter Lady Darling.

No ; this must be the Bawd by her Bulk.

Darl. Your Business, Pray Sir ?

Wild. Pleasure, Madam.

Darl. Then, Sir, you have no Business here.

Wild. This Letter, Madam, will Inform you further ; Mr. Vizard sent it, with his Humble Service to your Ladyship.

Darl. How does my Cousin, Sir ?

Wild. Ay, her Cousin too, that's right Procurer's agen.

Darl. Reads,

Madam ——

EArnest Inclination to serve — Sir Harry —
Madam — Court my Cousin — Gentleman —
Fortune — Your Ladyship's most humble
Servant.

Vizard.

The Constant Couple.

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Sir, your Fortune and Quality are sufficient to recommend you any where, but what goes farther with me, is the Recommendation of so Sober a young Gentleman as my Cousin *Vizard*.

Wild. A Right Sanctify'd Bawd on my Word.

Darl. Sir *Harry*, your Conversation with Mr. *Vizard* argues you a Gentleman, free from the Loose and Vicious Carriage of the Town; I'll therefore call my Daughter.

Wild. Now go thy way for an Illustrious Bawd of Babylon —— She Dresses up a Sin so Religiously, that the Devil wou'd hardly know it of his Making.

Re-enter Darling with Angelica.

Darl. Pray Daughter use him Civilly, such Matches won't offer every Day.

(Exit.

Wild. O all ye Powers of Love! an Angel! s'Death, What Mony have I got in my Pocket? I can't offer her less than Twenty Guineas — and, by Jupiter, she's worth a Hunder'd.

Angel. 'Tis he! the very same! and his Person agreeable as his Character of good Humour —— Pray Heav'n his Silence proceed from Respect.

Wild. How Innocent she looks! How wou'd that Modesty adorn Virtue, when it makes even Vice look so Charming? — By Heav'n, there is such a Commanding Innocence in her Looks, That I dare not Ask the Question.

Angel. Now all the Charms of Real Love and feign'd Indifference assist me to engage his Heart, for mine is lost already.

Wild. Madam — I, I — Zoons, I cannot speak to her — But she's a Whore, and I will — Madam, in short, I, I — O Hypocrisy, Hypocrisy! What a Charming Sin art thou?

Angel. He is caught; now to secure my Conquest — I thought, Sir, you had Business to impart.

Wild. Busines to impart! How Nicely she words it! Yes, Madam, Don't you, don't you love Singing Birds, Madam?

Angel. That's an odd Question for a Lover — Yes, Sir.

Wild. Why then, Madam, here is a Nest of the prettiest Goldfinches that ever Chirpt in a Cage; Twenty young ones, I assure you, Madam.

Angel. Twenty young ones! What then, Sir?

Wild. Why then Madam, there are Twenty young ones — s'Life, I think Twenty is pretty fair.

Angel. He's Mad sure — Sir *Harry*, when you have learn'd more Wit and Manners, you shall be Welcome here agen.

Wild. Wit and Manners! — I Gad, now I conceive there is a great deal of Wit and Manners in Twenty Guineas — I'm sure 'tis all the Wit and Manners I have about me at present. What shall I do?

Enter Clincher junior, and Dicky.

What the Devil's here? another Cousin I warrant ye! Harkee, Sir; Can you lend

Send me Ten or Twenty Guineas instantly? I'll Pay you Fifteen of them in three Hours upon my Honour.

Clin. jun. These London-Sparks are Plaguy Impudent! this Fellow, by his Wig, and Assurance, can be no less than a Courtier.

Dick. He's rather a Courtier by his Borrowing.

Clin. jun. Faith, Sir, I have not above Five Guineas about me.

Wild. What Business have you here then Sir? for, to my knowledge, Twenty won't be sufficient.

Clin. jun. Sufficient! For what Sir?

Wild. What Sir? Why, for that Sir; What the Devil should it be, Sir? I know your Business, notwithstanding all your Gravity, Sir.

Clin. jun. My Business! why my Cousin lives here.

Wild. I know your Cousin does lives there, and Wizard's Cousin, and my Cousin, and every Bodies Cousin— Harkee, Sir, I shall return immediately, and if you offer to Touch her till I come back, I shall Cut your Throat, Rascal.

(Exit.

Clin. Why the Man's Mad, sure.

Dic. Mad, Sir? ay, he's a Beau.

Clin. A Beau! What's that? Are all Mad-men Beaux?

Dic. No, Sir; but most Beaux are Mad men. But now for your Cousin; remember your Three Scrapes, a Kiss, and your Humble Servant.

(Exeunt, as into the House.

SCENE, The STREET.

Enter Wildair, Colonel following.

Stand. SIR Harry, Sir Harry.

Wild. I'm in haste, Colonel; besides, if you're in no better Humour than when I parted with you in the Park this Morning, your Company won't be very agreeable.

Stand. You're a happy Man, Sir Harry, who are never out of Humour: Can nothing move your Gall, Sir Harry?

Wild. Nothing but Impossibilities, which are the same as nothing.

Stand. What Impossibilities?

Wild. The Resurrection of my Father to Disinherit me, or an Act of Parliament against Wenching. A Man of Eight thousand Pound per Annum to be next! No, no; Anger and Spleen are Companions for Younger Brothers.

Stand. Suppose one call'd you Son of a Whore behin'd your back.

Wild. Why then wou'd I call him Rascal behind his back, and so we're even.

Stand. But suppose you had lost a Mistress.

Wild. Why then wou'd I get another.

Stand. But suppose you were Discarded by the Woman you Love, that wou'd sorely trouble you.

Wild.

Wild. You're mistaken, Colonel ; my Love is neither Romantically Honourable, nor Manly Mercenary, 'tis only a Pitch of Gratitude ; while she Loves me, I Love her ; when she desists, the Obligation's void.

Stand. But to be mistaken in your Opinion, Sir, if the Lady *Lurewell* (only suppose it) had Discarded you—I say, only suppose it—and had sent your Discharge by me.

Wild. F'ishaw ! that's another Impossibility.

Stand. Are you sure of that ?

Wild. Why 'twere a Solocism in Nature ; we're Finger and Thumb, Sir. She Dances with me, Sings with me, Plays with me, Swears with me, Lies with me.

Stand. How, Sir ?

Wild. I mean in an Honourable way ; that is, she Lies for me. In short, we are as like one other as a couple of Guineas.

Stand. Now that I have rais'd you to the highest Pinnacle of Vanity, will I give you so Mortifying a Fall, as shall dash your Hopes to pieces—I pray your Honour to Peruse these Papers. *(Gives him the Pacquet.)*

Wild. What is't, the Muster-Roll of your Regiment, Colonel ?

Stand. No, no ; 'tis a List of your Forces in your last Love-Campaign ; and, for your Comfort, all Disbanded.

Wild. Prithee, good Metaphorical Colonel, What d'ye mean ?

Stand. Read, Sir, Read ; these are the *Sybil's* Leaves that will unfold your Destiny.

Wild. So it be not a false Deed, to Cheat me of my Estate, what care I—
[opening the Pacquet] *Hump!* my Hand ! To the Lady *Lurewell*— What Devil Hast thou been Tampering with to Conjure up these Spirits ?

Stand. A certain Familiar of your Acquaintance, Sir.

Wild. (Reading)— Madam, my Passion— so natural— your Beauty contending— Force of Charms— Mankind— Eternal Admirer Wildair !

I never was ashame'd of my Name before.

Stand. What, Sir *Harry Wildair* out of humour ? ha, ha, ha, poor Sir *Harry* ; more Glory in her Smile, than in the Jubilee at *Rome*, ha, ha, ha ; but then her Foot, Sir *Harry*, she dances to a Miracle ! ha, ha, ha : Fy, Sir *Harry*, a Man of your Parts Write Letters not worth a keeping ! What say'lt thou, my dear Knight Errant ? ha, ha, ha ; you may go seek Adventures now indeed.

Wild. Sings— Let her wander, &c.

Stand. You are Jilted to some tune, Sir, blown up with false *Majestic*, that's all.

Wild. Now why should I be Angry that a Woman is a Woman ? since Inconstancy and Falshood are grounded in their Natures, How can they help it ?

Stand. Then they must be grounded in your Nature ; for you and she are Finger and Thumb, Sir.

Wild. Here's a Copy of Verses too, I must turn Poet in the Devil's Name— Stay— S'death, What's here ? This is her Hand— Oh the charming Characters ! My dear Wildair. (reading) That's I— this Fluff Bluff Colonel—

that's he— is the rarest Fool in Nature—— the Devil be is ! and as such have I us'd him—— with all my heart faith—— I had no better way of letting you know that I Lodg in Pall-Mall, near the Holy Lamb—— Colonel, I'm your Humble Servant.

Stand. Hold, Sir ; you shan't go yet ; I hant deliver'd half my Message.

Wild. Upon my Faith but you have, Colonel.

Stand. Well, well, own your Spleen, out with it ; I know you'r like to burst.

Wild. I am so, by Gad ; Ha, ha, ha.

Stand. Ay, with all my heart ; Ha, ha.

(Laugh, and point at one another's)

Well, well, that's all forc'd, Sir Harry.

Wild. I was never better pleas'd in all my Life, by Jupiter.

Stand. Well, Sir Harry, 'tis prudence to hide your Concern, when there's no help for't : — But, to be serious now, the Lady has sent you back all your Papers there—— I was so just as not to look upon 'em.

Wild. I am glad on't, Sir ; for there were some things that I would not have you see.

Stand. All this she has done for my sake ; and I desire you would decline any farther Pretensions for your own sake. So, honest, good natur'd Sir Harry, I'm your Humble Servant.

(Exit.)

Wild. Ha, ha, ha, poor Colonel ! — O the delight of an ingenious Mistress ! What a Life and Briskness it adds to an Amour, like the Loves of mighty Jove, still suing iu different Shapes. A Legerdemain Mistress, who, presto, pass, and she's vanish'd ; then, Hey, in an instant, in your Arms agen. (Going.)

Enter Vizard.

Viz. Well met, Sir Harry ; What News from the Island of Love ?

Wild. Faith we made but a Broken Voyage by your Card ; but now I am bound for another Port : I told you the Colonel was my Rival.

Viz. The Colonel ! Curs'd Misfortune ! another !

(Aside.)

Wild. But the Civilist in the World ; he brought me word where my Mistress Lodges ; the Story's too long to tell you now, for I must fly.

Viz. What ! Have you given over all Thoughts of Angelica ?

Wild. No, no ; I'll think of her some other time. But now for the Lady Lurewell ; Wit and Beauty calls.

That Mistress ne're can pall her Lover's Toys,

Whose Wit can whet, when e're her Beauty cloys.

Her little Amorous Frauds all Truths excel ;

And make us happy, being Deceiv'd so well.

(Exit.)

Viz. solus — The Colonel my Rival too ! How shall I manage ? There is but one way — him and the Knight will I set a Tilting, where one cuts t'others Throat, and the Survivor's Hang'd : So there will be Two Rivals pretty decently dispos'd of. Since Honour may oblige them to Play the Fool, Why should not Necessity engage me to Play the Knafe ?

(Exit.)

SCENE Lurewell's Lodgings.

Lurewell and Party.

Lure. HAS my Servant brought me the Money from my Merchant ?
Parl. No, Madam : he met Alderman Smuggler at Charing-Cross, who has Promis'd to wait on you himself immediately.

Lure. 'Tis odd, that this Old Rogue shou'd pretend to Love me, and at the same time Cheat me of my Money.

Parl. 'Tis well, Madam, if he don't Cheat you of your Estate ; for you say, the Writings are in his Hands.

Lure. But what Satisfaction can I get of him ?

Enter Smuggler.

Mr. Alderman, your Servant ; Have you brought me any Money, Sir ?

Smug. Faith, Madam, Trading is very dead ; what with Paying the Taxes, raising the Customs, Losses at Sea abroad, and maintaining our Wives at home, the Bank is reduc'd very low.

Lure. Come, come, Sir, these Evasions won't serve your turn ; I must have Money, Sir, — I hope you don't design to Cheat me.

Smug. Cheat you, Madam ! I have been an Honest Citizen these Five and thirty years !

Lure. An Honest Citizen ! bear Witness, Parl. ! I shall Trap him in more Lies presently — Come, Sir, tho' I'm a Woman, I can take a Course.

Smug. What Course, Madam ? You'll go to Law, will ye ? I can Maintain a Suit of Law, be it Right or Wrong, these Forty years, I'm sure of that, thanks to the Honest Practice of the Courts.

Lure. Sir, I'll Blast your Reputation, and so Ruin your Credit.

Smug. Blast my Reputation ! He, he, he : why I'm a Religious Man, Madam, I have been very Instrumental in the Reformation of Manners ; Ruin my Credit ! Ah, Poor Woman : There is but one way, Madam, — You have a sweet Leering Eye.

Lure. You Instrumental in the Reformation ! How ?

Smug. I VVhipt all the Whores, Cut and Long-Tail, out of the Parish — Ah that Leering Eye ! Then I Voted for pulling down the Play-House — Ah that Ogle, that Ogle ! — Then my own Pious Example — Ah that Lip, that Lip.

Lure. Here's a Religious Rogue for you now ! — As I hope to Sav'd, I have a Good Mind to beat the Old Monster.

Smug. Madam, I have brought you about a Hundred and fifty Guinea's (a great deal of Money as Times go) and —

Lure. Come, give it me.

Smug. Ah that Hand, that Hand ; that Pretty soft, white — I have brought it, you see : But the Condition of the Obligation is such, that whereas that Leering Eye, that Pouting Lip, that pretty Soft Hand, that — you understand me, you understand I'm — you do, you little Rogue —

Lure. Here's a Villain now, so Covetous, that he won't weech upon his own

Cost, but would Bribe me with my own Mony. I will be reveng'd.—Upon my word, Mr. Alderman, you make me Blush ; What d'ye mean, pray ?

Smug. See here, Madam, (Puts a Piece of Mony in his Mouth) Buss and Guinea, buss and Guinea, Buss and Guinea.

Lure. Well, Mr. Alderman, you have such pretty Yellow Teeth, and Green Gums, that I will, Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Smug. Will you, indeed ? He, he, he, my little Cocket ; And when, and where, and how ?

Lure. 'Twill be a difficult Point, Sir, to secure both our Honours, you must therefore be disguis'd, Mr. Alderman.

Smug. P'shaw ! no matter, I'm an Old Fornicator, I'm not half so Religious as I seem to be. You little Rogue, why I'm Disguis'd as I am, our Sanctity is all outside, and Hypocrisy.

Lure. No Man is seen to come into this House after Night fall ; you must therefore Sneak in, when 'tis Dark, in Woman's Cloath's.

Smug. I gad so, cod so——I have a Suit a purpose, my little Cocket, I love to be disguis'd, I cod I make a very handsome Woman, I cod I do.

Enter Servant, Whispers Lurewell.

Lure. Oh ! Mr. Alderman, Shall I beg you to walk into next Room, here are some Strangers coming up.

Smug. Buss and Guinea first, ah my little Cocket.

(Exit.

Enter Wildair.

Wild. My Life, my Soul, my all that Heaven can give.

Lure. Death's Life with thee, without thee Death to live.

Welcome, my dear Sir Harry, I see you got my Directions.

Wild. Directions ! in the most Charming manner ; thou Dear Matchiavel of Intreague.

Lure. Still brisk and airy I find, Sir Harry.

Wild. The sight of you, Madam, exalts my Air, and makes Joy lighten in my Face.

Lure. I have a Thousand Questions to Ask you, Sir Harry ; How d'ye like France ?

Wild. Ah ! est le plus beau pais du monde.

Lure. Then what made you leave it so soon ?

Wild. Madam, Vous Voyez qui je vous fuy partout.

Lure. O Monsieur, je vous suis fort obligee——But where's the Court now ?

Wild. At Marli, Madam.

Lure. And where my Count Le Valier ?

Wild. His Body's in the Church of Nostre-Dame ; I don't know where his Soul is.

Lure. What Disease did he dye of ? Wild. A Duel, Madam, I was his Doctor.

Lure. How d'ye mean ? Wild. As most Doctors do, I kill'd him.

Lure. En Cavalier, my dear Knight-Errant, well ; And how ? And how, What Intreagues, what Gallantries are carrying on in the Beau Monde ?

Wild. I should ask you that Question, Madam, since your Ladyship makes the Beau Monde wherever you come.

Lure. Ah ? Sir Harry, I've been almost ruin'd, pester'd to Death here by the incessant Attacks of a Mighty Colonel, he has Besieg'd me as Close as our Army

Wild. I hope your Ladyship did not Surrender tho'.

Lure. No, no ; but was forc'd to Capitulate : But since you are come to Raise the Siege, we'll Dance, and Sing, and Laugh.

Wild. And Love, and Kisses—*Montrez moy votre Chambre.*

Lure. *Attande, Attande, en peu*— I remember, Sir Harry, you Promis'd me in *Paris*, never to Ask that Impertinent Question agen.

Wild. P'shaw, Madam, that was above Two Months ago ; besides, Madam, Treaties made in *France* are never kept.

Lure. Wou'd you Marry me, Sir Harry ?

Wild. Oh ! *Le Marriage est une grand mal*— but I will Marry you.

Lure. Your Word, Sir, is not to be rely'd on : if a Gentleman will forfeit his Honour in Dealings of Business, we may reasonably suspect his Fidelity in an Amour.

Wild. My Honour in Dealings of Business ! why, Madam, I never had any business in all my Life.

Lure. Yes, Sir Harry, I have heard a very odd Story, and am sorry, that a Gentleman, of your Figure, should undergo the Scandal.

Wild. Out with it, Madam.

Lure. Why the *Merchant*, Sir, that transmitted your Bills of Exchange to you in *France*, complains of some Indirect and Dishonourable Dealings.

Wild. Who, Old Smuggler !

Lure. Ay, ay ; you know him I find.

Wild. I have no less than reason, I think ; why the Rogue has cheated me of above Five hundred Pound within these Three years.

Lure. 'Tis your Business then to acquit your self publickly, for he spreads the Scandal every where.

Wild. Acquit my self Publickly !— Here, Sirrah, my Coach, I'll drive instantly into the City, and Cane the Old Villain round the *Royal Exchange* ; he shall run the Gauntlet through a Thousand Brush Beavers and Formal Cravats.

Lure. Why he is in the House now, Sir. Wild. What, in this House ?

Lure. Ay, in the next Room. Wild. Then, Sirrah, lend me your Cudgel.

Lure, Sir Harry, you won't raise a Disturbance in my House ?

Wild. Disturbance, Madam, No, no ; I'll beat him with the Temper of a Philosopher ; here, Mrs. Parly, shew me the Gentleman. [Exit with Parly.

Lure. Now shall I get the Old Monster well Beaten, and Sir Harry pester'd next Term with Bloodsheds, Batteries, Costs and Damages, Sollicitors and Attornies ; and if they don't teize him out of his good humour, I'll never Plot agen. [Exit.

S C E N E Changes to another Room in the same **H O U S E**.

Enter Smugler.

Smug. **O** This Dam'd Tide-waiter ! A Ship and Cargo whorch Five thousand pound ; why 'tis richly worth Five hundred Pounds.

Enter Wildair.

Wild. Dear Mr. Alderman, I'm your most devoted and humble Servant.

Smug. My best Friend, Sir Harry, you're welcome to England.

Wild. I'll assure you, Sir, there's not a Man in the King's Dominions I'm gladder to meet.

Smug. O Lord, Sir, you Travellers have the most obliging ways with you.

Wild. There is a Business, Mr. Alderman, fall'n out, which you may oblige me infinitely by ——— I am very sorry that I'm forc'd to be Troublesome ; but necessity, Mr. Alderman.

Smug. Ay, Sir, as you say, Necessity ——— But, upon my Word, Sir, I am very short of Mony at present, but ———

Wild. That's not the matter, Sir, I'm above an Obligation that way ; but the Business is, I am reduc'd to an indispensible necessity of being oblig'd to you for a Beating — Here, take this Cudgel.

Smug. A Beating, Sir Harry ! Ha, ha, ha, I beat a Knight Baronet ! an Alderman turn Cudgel player ; Ha, ha, ha.

Wild. Upon my Word, Sir, you must Beat me, or I Cudgel you ; take your Choice.

Smug. P'shaw, p'shaw, you Jest.

Wild. Nay, 'tis as sure as Fate ; fo Alderman I hope you'll Pardon my Curiosity.

Smug. Curiosity ! Duce take your Curiosity, Sir ; What d'ye mean ?

Wild. Nothing at all : I'm but in Jest, Sir.

Smug. O I can take any thing in Jest ; but a Man might imagine by the smartness of the Stroak, that you were in down-right Earnest.

Wild. Not in the least, Sir, (strikes him.) not in the least, indeed, Sir.

Smug. Pray, good Sir, no more of your Jests, for they are the Bluntest Jests that I ever knew.

Wild. (strikes) I heartily beg your Pardon with all my Heart, Sir.

Smug. Pardon, Sir ; well Sir, that is Satisfaction enough from a Gentleman ; but seriously now if you pass any more of your Jests upon me, I shall grow Angry.

Wild. I humbly beg your Permission to break one or two more. (striking him.)

Smug. O Lord, Sir, you'll break my Bones : Are you Mad Sir ? Murder, Felony, Manslaughter. (Wild knocks him down.)

Wild. Sir, I beg you Ten thousand Pardons ; but I am absolutely compell'd to't upon my Honour, Sir ; nothing can be more averse to my Inclinations, than to Jest with my honest, dear, loving, obliging Friend, the Alderman.

(Striking him all this while, Smuggler tumbles over and over, and shakes out his Pocket-Book on the Floor ; Lurewell enters, takes it up.)

Lure. The Old Rogues's Pocket-book, this may be of use. (Afide.) O Lord, Sir Harry's Murdering the poor Old Man —

Smug. O dear Madam, I was beaten in Jest, 'till I am murder'd in good Earnest.

Lure. Well, well, I'll bring you off Senior — Frapez, Frapez.

Smug. O for Charity's sake, Madam, Rescue a poor Citizen.

Lure. O you Barbarous Man, ho ld, hold, Frapez plus rudement.

Frapz, I wonder you are not Asham'd,
A poor Reverend Honest Elder—

(Holding Wild.
(Helps Smug. up.

It makes me Weep to see him in this Condition, poor Man !

Now the Devil take you, Sir *Harry*—For not Beating

Him harder : Well, my Dear, you shall come at Night, and

I'll make you Amends.

(Here Sir Harry takes Smug.

Smug. Madam, I will have Amends before I leave the Place, Sir :
How durst you use me thus ?

Wild. Sir ?

Smug. Sir, I say, I will have Satisfaction.

Wild. With all my Heart.

(Throws Smug into his Eyes.

Smug. O, Murder, Blindness, Fire ; O *Madam, Madam*, get me some Wa-
ter. Water, Fire, Fire, Water.

(Exit with Lurewell.

Wild. How pleasant is resenting an Injury without Passion ?
'Tis the Beauty of Revenge.

Let Statesmen Plot, and under Busines groan,

And, settling Publick Quiet, lose their own :

Let Soldiers Drudge, and Fight for Pay or Fame ;

For, when they're Shot, I think 'tis much the same.

Let Scholars vex their Brains with Mood and Tense,

And, Mad, with strength of Reason, Fools Commence. {

Losing their Wits in searching after Sense ;

Their Sumnum Bonum they must toil to gain ;

And, seeking Pleasure, spend their Life in Pain.

I make the most of Life, no hour mispend ;

Pleasur's the Means, and Pleasure is my End.

No Spleen, no Trouble shall my Time destroy.

Life's but a Span ; I'll every Inch enjoy.

(Exit.

A C T III.

SCENE The STREET.

Enter Standard and Vizard.

Stand. I Bring him Word where she Lodg'd ! I the Civilest Rival in the
World ! 'tis impossible.

Viz. I shall urge it no further, Sir ; I only thought, Sir,
That my Character in the World might add Authority
To my Words, without so many Repetitions.

Stand. Pardon me, Dear *Vizard*—Our Belief struggles hard,
Before it can be brought to yield to the Disadvantage
Of what we Love ; 'tis so great an Abuse to our Judgment,
That it makes the Faults of our Choice our own failing.
But what said Sir *Harry* ?

Viz. He Pitied the Poor Credulous Colonel, Laugh'd heartily,
Flew away with all the Raptures of a Bridegroom, Repeating these Lines.

*A Mistress ne're can pall her Lover's Joys,
Whose Wit can whet when e're her Beauty cloys.*

Stand. *A Mistress ne're can pall!* By all my Wrongs be Whores her! and
I'm made their Property, Vengeance! Vizard, you must carry a Note from
me to Sir Harry.

Viz. What! a Challenge! I hope you don't design to Fight.

Stand. What! wear the Livery of my King, and Pocket an
Affront! 'twere an Abuse to His Sacred Majesty; a
Soldier's Sword, Vizard, shou'd start of it self to
Redress its Master's Wrong.

Viz. However, Sir, I think it not proper for me to carry any such Message
between Friends.

Stand. I have ne're a Servant here, What shall I do?

Viz. There's Tom Errand, the Porter, that Plys at the *Blew Posts*,
And who knows Sir Harry and his Haunts very well,
You may send a Note by him.

Stand. Here, you, Friend.

Viz. I have now some Business, and must take my Leave, I wou'd advise you
neverthess against this Affair.

Stand. No Whispering now, nor telling of Friends to prevent us. He that
disappoints a Man of an Honourable Revenge, may Love him Foolishly like a
Wife, but never value him as a Friend.

Viz. Nay, the Devil take him that parts you, say I.

[Exit.

Enter Porter Running.

Err. Did your Honour call a Porter?

Stand. Is your Name Tom. Errand?

Err. People call me so, an't like your Worship—

Stand. D'ye know Sir Harry Wildair?

Err. Ay, very well, Sir; he's one of my Masters; many a round half Crown
heve I had of his Worship. He's newly come home from France, Sir.

Stand. Go to the next *Coffee-House*, and wait for me.
O Woman, Woman, How Blest is Man, when favour'd by your
Smiles? And how Accurst, when all those Smiles are found
But Wanton Baits, to sooth us to Destruction.

*Thus our chief Joys, with base Allays, are Curst,
And our best Things, when once Corrupted, worst.*

(Exit.

Enter Wildair, and Clincher Senior following.

Clin. sen. Sir, Sir, Sir, having some Business of Importance to communicate
to you, I would Beg your Attention to a Trifling Affair that I wou'd impart
to you.

Wild. What is your Trifling Business of Importance, pray sweet Sir?

Clin. Senior. Pray, Sir, Are the Roads deep between this and *Paris*?

Wild. Why that Question, Sir?

Clin. sen. Because I Design to go to the *Jubilee*, Sir; I understand that
you

you are a Traveller, Sir ; there is an Air of Travel in the Tie of your Cravat, Sir, there is indeed, Sir — I suppose, Sir, you Bought this Lace in *Flanders*.

Wild. No, Sir, this Lace was made in *Norway*.

Clin. sen. *Norway*, Sir !

Wild. Yes Sir, of the Shavings of Deal-Boards.

Clin. jun. That's very strange now, Faith —— Lace made of the Shavings of Deal-Boards ; I Gad, Sir, you Travellers see very strange Things Abroad, very Incredible Things Abroad, indeed. Well, I'll have a Cravat of that very same Lace before I come home.

Wild. But, Sir, What Preparations have you made for your Journey ?

Clin. Sen. A Case of Pocket-pistols for the Bravo's —— and a Swimming-Girdle.

Wild. Why these, Sir ?

Clin. sen. O Lord, Sir, I'll tell you —— suppose us in *Rome* now ; away goes me I to some Ball —— for I'll be a mighty Beau. Then, as I said, I go to some Ball, or some Bear-baiting, 'tis all one you know —— then comes a Fine *Italian Bona Roba*, and plucks me by the Sleeve, *Seigniour Angle*, *Seigniour Angle*, —— she's a very Fine Lady, observe that —— *Seigniour Angle*, says she, —— *Seigniora*, says I, and trips after her to the Corner of a Street, suppose it *Russel-street* here, or any other Street ; then you know I must Invite her to the Tavern, I can do no less. —— There up comes her Bravo, the *Italian* grows Sawcy, and I give him an *English* Douse of the Face. I can Box, Sir, Box titely, I was a Prentice, Sir, —— but then, Sir, he whips out his *Stiletto*, and I whips out my *Full-Dog* —— slaps him through, trips down Stairs, turns the Corner of *Russel-street* again, and whips me into the Ambassador's Train, and there I'm safe as a Beau behind the Scenes.

Wild. Was your Pistol Charg'd, Sir ?

Clin. sen. Only a Brace of Bullets, that's all, Sir, I design to Shoot Seven *Italians* a Week, Sir.

Wild. Sir, you won't have Provocation.

Clin. sen. Provocation, Sir ! Zauns, Sir, I'll kill any Man for Treading upon my Corn, and there will be a Devilish Throng of People there ; they say, that all the Princes of *Italy* will be there.

Wild. And all the Fops and Fidlers in *Europe* —— but the Use of your Swimming Girdle, pray, Sir ?

Clin. sen. O Lord, Sir, that's easie. Suppose the Ship cast away ; now, whilst other foolish People are busie at their Prayers, I whip on my Swimming Girdle, claps a Months Provision into my Pockets, and Sails me away, like an Egg in a Duck's Belly —— And heark'ee, Sir, I have a New Project in my Head. Where d'ye think my Swimming-Girdle shall carry me upon this Occasion : 'Tis a New Project ?

Wild. Where, Sir ?

Clin. sen. To *Civita Vecchia*, Faith and Troth, and so save the Charges of my Passage ! Well, Sir, you must Pardon me now, I'm going to see my Mistress.

Wild. This Fellow's an Accomplish'd Ass before he goes Abroad. Well; this *Angelica* has got into my Heart, and I can't get her out of my Head. I must Pay her t'other Visit.

S C E N E *Lady Darling's HOUSE.*

Angelica sola.

Angel. **U**nhappy State of Woman! whose chief Virtue is but Ceremony, and our much Boasted Modesty but a slavish Restraint. The strict confinement on our Words makes our Thoughts ramble more; and what preserves our Outward Fane, destroys our Inward Quiet.—'Tis hard, that Love shou'd be deny'd the privilege of Hatred; that Scandal and Detraction shou'd be so much indulg'd, yet Sacred Love and Truth debarr'd our Conversation.

Enter Darling, Clincher jun. and Dicky.

Darl. This is my Daughter, Cousin.

Dick. Now, Sir, remember your Three Scrapes.

Clin. Saluting *Angelica.*] One, Two, Three, [*Kisses her.*] Your humble Servant. Was not that Right, *Dicky.*

Dick. Ay, Faith, Sir; But why don't you Speak to her?

Clin. jun. I Beg your Pardon, *Dicky.* I know my Distance; Wou'd you have me Speak to a Lady at the first sight?

Dick. Ay, Sir, by all Means, the first Aim is the surest.

Clin. jun. Now for a good Jest, to make her Laugh heartily—By *Jupiter Ammon* I'll go give her a Kiss. [*Goes toward her.*]

Enter Wildair, Interposing.

Wild. 'Tis all to no purpose, I told you so before; your pitiful Five Guinea's will never do—You may March, Sir; for as far as Five hundred Pounds will go, I'll Out-bid you.

Clin. jun. What the Devil! the Mad-man's here again.

Darl. Bless me, Cousin! What d'ye mean? Affront a Gentleman of his Quality in my House.

Clin. jun. Quality! why, *Madam!* I don't know what you mean by your Madmen, and your Beaux, and your Quality.—They're all alike I believe.

Darl. Pray, Sir, walk with me into the next Room.

[*Exit Drrl.* leading *Clin.* *Dick follows.*]

Angel. Sir, if your Conversation be no more Agreeable than 'twas the last time, I wou'd advise you to make it as short as you can.

Wild. The Offences of my last Visit, *Madam*, bore their Punishment in the Commission; and have made me as uneasie till I receive Pardon, as your Ladyship can be 'till I sue for it.

Angel. Sir *Harry*, I did not well understand the Offence, and must therefore proportion it to the greatness of your Apology: If you wou'd therefore have me think it light, take no great Pains in an Excuse.

Wild. How sweet must be the Lips that guard that Tongue!

Then

The Constant Couple.

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Then, *Madam*, no more of past Offences, let us prepare for Joys to come ; let this seal my Pardon. [Kisses her Hand.] And this [Again] Initiate me to farther Happiness.

Angel. Hold, Sir, — one Question, Sir *Harry* ; and pray Answer plainly, D'ye Love me ?

Wild. Love you ! Does Fire ascend ? Do Hypocrites dissemble ? Usurpers love Gold, or Great Men Flattery ? Doubt these, then question that I Love.

Angel. This shows your Gallantry, Sir, but not your Love.

Wild. View your own Charms, *Madam*, then Judge my Passion ; your Beauty Ravishes my Eye, your Voice my Ear, and your Touch has thrill'd my melting Soul.

Angel. If your words be real, 'tis in your Pow'r to raise an equal Flame in me.

Wild. Nay then — I seize —

Angel. Hold, Sir, 'tis also possible, to make me Detest and Scorn you worse than the most profligate of your Deceiving Sex.

Wild. Ha ! A very odd Turn this. I hope, *Madam*, you only affect Anger, because you know your Frowns are Becoming.

Angel. Sir *Harry*, you being the best Judge of your own Designs, can best understand whether my Anger shou'd be real or dissembled, think what strict Modesty shou'd bear, then Judge of my Resentments.

Wild. Strict Modesty shou'd bear ! Why, Faith, *Madam*, I believe the strictest Modesty may bear Fifty Guinea's, and I don't believe 'twill bear one Farthing more.

Angel. What d'mean, Sir ?

Wild. Nay, *Madam*, What do you mean ? If you go to that, I think now Fifty Guinea's is a very fine offer for your strict Modesty, as you call it.

Angel. 'Tis more Charitable, Sir *Harry*, to charge the Impertinence of a Man of your Figure, or his defect in Understanding, than on his want of Manners — I'm afraid you're Mad, Sir.

Wild. Why, *Madam*, you're enough to make any Man Mad. S'death, Are not you a —

Angel. What, Sir ?

Wild. Why, a Lady of — strict Modesty, if you will have it so.

Angel. I shall never hereafter trust Common Report, which Represented you, Sir, a Man of Honour, Wit and Breeding ; for I find you very deficient in them all. (Exit.

Wild. solus. Now I find that the strict Pretences which the Ladies of Pleasure make to strict Modesty, is the reason why those of Quality are ashamed to wear it.

Enter Vizard.

Viz. Ah, Sir *Harry*, Have I caught you ? Well, And what Success ?

Wild. Success ! 'tis a shame for you, Young Fellows in Town here, to let the Wenches grow so Sawcy : I offer'd her Fifty Guinea's, and she was in her Airs presently. I cou'd have Two Countesses in *Paris* for half the Money, and *Je vous remercie* into the Bargain.

Viz. Gone in her Airs, say you ? And did not you follow her ?

Wild. Which, I did not.

Viz. Into her Bed-Chamber, Man. She went on purpose ; You a Man of Gallantry, and not understand that a Lady's best pleas'd when she puts on her Airs, as you call it.

Wild. She Talk'd to me of strict Modesty, and Stuff.

Viz. Certainly most Women magnify their Modesty, for the same Reason that Cowards boast their Courage, because they have least on't. Come, come, Sir *Harry*, when you make your next Assault, incourage your Spirits with brisk *Burgundy* ; if you Succeed, 'tis well ; if not, you have a fair Excuse for your Rudeness. I'll go in, and make your Peace for what's past. Oh ! I had almost forgot —— Coll. Standard wants to Speak with you about some Business.

Wild. I'll wait upon him presently ; D'ye know where he may be found ?

Viz. In the Piazza of *Covent-Garden*, about an Hour hence, I Promis'd to see him, and there you may Meet him ; To have your Throat Cut, [Aside. I'll go in and Intercede for you.

Wild. But no Foul Play with the Lady, *Vizard*.

Viz. No Fair Play I can assure you.

[Exit.

[Exit.

SCENE *The Street before Lurewell's Lodgings ; Clinch. Sen. and Lurewell Coqueting in the Balcony.*

Enter Standard.

Stand **H**ow weak is Reason in Disputes of Love ? that daring Reason which so oft pretends to question Works of high Omnipotence, yet poorly truckles to our weakest Passions, and yields Implicite Faith to Foolish Love, paying Blind Zeal to Faithless Womans Eyes. I've heard her Falshood with such Pressing Proofs, that I no longer shou'd distrust it. Yet still my Love wou'd Baffle Demonstration, and make Impossibilities seem probable. [Looks up. Ha ! that Fool too ! What ! stoop so low as that Animal. —— 'Tis true, Women once fall'n, like Cowards in despair, will stick at nothing ; there's no Medium in their Actions. They must be bright as Angels, or black as Fiends. But now for my Revenge, I'll Kick her Cully before her Face, call her a Whore, Curse the Whole Sex, and so leave her.

[Goes in.

Lurewell comes down with Clincher. The Scene changes to a Dining-Room.

Lure. O Lord, Sir, 'tis my Husband : What will become of you ?

Clin. Eh ! Your Husband ! Oh, I shall be Murder'd : What shall I do ? Where shall I run ? I'll creep into an Oven ; I'll climb up the Chimney ; I'll fly ; I'll swim ; —— I wish to the Lord I were at the Jubilee now. ——

Lure. Can't you think of any thing, Sir ?

Enter Tom Errand.

What do you want, Sir ?

Erra. Madam ; I am looking for Sir *Harry Wildair* ; I saw him come in here this Morning ; and did imagine he might be here still.

A lady. Here, friend. Change Cloathes with this Gentleman.

Clin. Ay, ay, quickly strip: I'll give you Half a Crown. Come here: So
They Change Cloaths.

Lure. Now slip you, [to Clinch.] down Stairs, and wait at the Door till my Husband be gone; And get you in there [to the Porter] till I call you. —
[Puts Errand into the next Room.

Enter Standard.

Oh, Sir! Are you come? I wonder, sir, how you have the Confidence to approach me after so base a Trick.

Stand. O Madam! all your Artifices won't prevail.

Lure. Nay, Sir, Your Artifices won't avail. I thought, Sir, that I gave you Caution enough against troubling me with Sir Harry Wildair's Company, when I sent his Letters back by you: Yet you, forsooth, must tell him where I Lodg'd, and expose me again to his Impertinent Courtship.

Stand. I Expose you to his Courtship?

Lure. I'll lay my Life you'll deny it now: Come, come, Sir, a pitiful Lye is as scandalous to a Red Coat, as an Oath to a Black. Did not Sir Harry himself tell me, that he found out by you where I Lodg'd?

Stand. You're all Lies: First, your Heart is false, your Eyes are double; one Look belyes another: And then your Tongue does contradict them all. — Madam, I see a little Devil just now hammering out a Lye in your Pericranium.

Lure. As I hope for Mercy he's in the right on't. [Aside] Hold, Sir, You have got the Play-House Cant upon your Tongue; and think that Wit may privilege your Railing: But I must tell you, Sir, that what is Satyr upon the Stage, is Ill Manners here.

Stand. What is Feign'd upon the Stage, is here in Reality Real Falshood. Yes, yes, Madam, — I expos'd you to the Courtship of your Fool Clincher too? I hope your Female Wiles will Impose that upon me — a fo —

Lure. Clincher! Nay, now, you're stark Mad. — I know no such Person.

Stand. O Woman in Perfection! not know him! 'Slife, Madam, Can my Eyes, my piercing jealous Eyes be so deluded? Nay, Madam, my Nose could not mistake him; for I smelt the Fop, by his Pulvilio, from the Balcony down to the Street.

Lure. The Balcony! Ha, ha, ha, the Balcony! I'll be hang'd but he has mistaken Sir Harry Wildair's Footman, with a New French Livery, for a Beau.

Stand. S'death, Madam, What is there in me that looks like a Gully? Did I not see him?

Lure. No, no; you cou'd not see him: You're Dreaming, Colonel: Will you believe your Eyes, now, that I have Rubb'd them open? — Here, you Friend.

Enter Errand in Clincher's Cloaths.

Stand. This is Illusion all; My Eyes conspire against themselves. 'Tis Legerdemain.

Lure. Legerdemain! Is that all your Acknowledgment for your Rude Behaviour? — Oh, what a Curse is it to Love as I do! — But don't presume too far, Sir, on my Affection: For such ungenerous Usage will soon return my tir'd Heart. — Be gone, Sir [to the Porter] to your Impertinent Master, and tell him, I shall never be at Leisure to receive any of his Troublesome Vi-

sits—— send to me to know when I should be at home: —— Be gone, Sir: —— I am sure he has made me an unfortunate Woman. (Weeps.)

Stand. Nay, then there is no certainty in Nature; and Truth is only Falseness well disguis'd.

Lure. Sir, had not I own'd my fond foolish Passion, I shou'd not have been subject to such unjust Suspicions; But 'tis an Ungrateful Return. (Weeping.)

Stand. Now where are all my firm Resolves? I will believe her Just. My Passion rais'd my Jealousie; Then why mayn't Love be blind in finding faults as in excusing them? —— I hope, Madam, you'll pardon me, since Jealousie that magnify'd my Suspicion is as much the Effect of Love as my Easiness in being satisfy'd.

Lure. Easiness in being satisfy'd! You Men have got an insolent way of Extorting Pardon, by perlisting in your Faults. No, no, Sir; cherish your Suspicions, and feed upon your Jealousie: 'Tis fit Meat for your Squeamish Stomach.

With me, all Women shou'd, this Rule pursue;
VVho thinks us False, shou'd never find us True. (Exit. in a Rage.)

Enter Clincher in the Porter's Cloaths.

Clin. Well, Intriguing is the prettiest pleasantest thing for a Man of my Parts: —— How shall we Laugh at the Husband when he is gone? —— How sillily he looks! He's in Labour of Horns already, — to make a Colonel a Cuckold! 'Twill be rare News for the Alderman. (aside.)

Stand. All this Sir Harry has occasion'd; but he's brave, and will afford me just Revenge. —— O! this is the Porter I sent the Challenge by: — Well, Sir, Have you found him?

Clin. What the Devil does he mean now?

Stand. Have you given Sir Harry the Note, Fellow?

Clin. The Note! What Note?

Stand. The Letter, Blockhead, which I sent by you to Sir Harry VVildair, Have you seen him?

Clin. O Lord, What shall I say now! Seen him! Yes, Sir — No Sir. — I have Sir. — I have not Sir.

Stand. The Fellow's Mad. Answer me directly Sirrah, or I'll break your Head.

Clin. I know Sir Harry very well, Sir; but, as to the Note, I can't remember a Word on't: Truth is, I have a very bad Memory.

Stand. O Sir, I'll quicken your Memory. (Strikes him)

Clin. Zauns, Sir, hold, —— I did give him the Note.

Stand. And what Answer?

Clin. I mean, Sir, I did not give him the Note.

Stand. What, d'ye banter, Rascal?

(Strikes him again.)

Clin. Hold, Sir, hold; He did send an Answer.

Stand. What was't, Villain?

Clin. Why, truly, Sir, I have forgot it: I told you that I had a very treacherous Memory.

Stand. I'll engage you shall remember me this Month, Rascal.

(Beats him off, and Exit.)

Enter

Enter Lurewell and Party.

Lure. Fortboon, fortboon, fortboon ; This is better than I expected : but Fortune still helps the Industrious.

Enter Clincher.

Clin. Ah ! The Devil take all Intriguing, say I, and him who first invented Canes : — That curs'd Colonel has got such a Knack of Beating his Men, that he has left the Mark of a Collar of Bandileers about my Shoulders.

Lure. O my poor Gentleman ! And was it Beaten ?

Clin. Yes, I have been Beaten : But where's my Cloaths, my Cloaths ?

Lure. What, you won't leave me so soon, my Dear, will ye ?

Clin. Will ye ? If ever I Peep into a Colonel's Tent agen, may I be forc'd to run the Gauntlet : — But my Cloaths, Madam.

Lure. I sent the Porter down Stairs with them : Did not you meet him ?

Clin. Meet him ! No, not I.

Parl. No ? He went out of the Back-door, and is run clear away I'm afraid.

Clin. Gone, say you ? And with my Cloaths ? My Fine Jubilee Cloaths ? O, the Rogue, the Thief ! — I'll have him hang'd for Murder : — But how shall I get home in this Pickle ?

Parl. I'm afraid, Sir, the Colonel will be back presently ; for he Dines at home.

Clin. Oh, then I must sneak off ! Was ever Man so Manag'd ! to have his Coat well Thrash'd, and lose his Coat too ?

(Exit.)

Lure. Thus the Noble Poet Spoke Truth.

Nothing futes worse with Vice, than want of Sense :

Fools are still wicked at their own Expence.

Parl. Methinks, Madam, the Injuries you have suffer'd by Men must be very great, to raise such heavy Resentments against the whole Sex.

Lure. The greatest Injury that Woman cou'd sustain ; They Robb'd me of that Jewel, which preserv'd, exalts our Sex almost to Angels : But destroy'd, debases us below the worst of Brutes, Mankind.

Parl. But, I think, Madam, your Anger shou'd be only confin'd to the Author of your Wrongs.

Lure. The Author ! Alas, I know him not, which makes my Wrongs the greater.

Parl. Not know him ! 'Tis odd, Madam, that a Man shou'd Rob you of that same Jewel you mention'd, and you not know him.

Lure. Leave Triffling : — 'Tis a Subject that always soures my Temper ; but since by thy faithful Service I have some Reason to confide in your Secrecie, hear the strange Relation : — Some Twelve, Twelve Years ago I liv'd at my Father's House in Oxfordshire, blest with Innocence, the Ornamental, but weak Guard of blooming Beauty : I was then just Fifteen, an Age oft fatal to the Female Sex ; Our Youth is tempting, our Innocence credulous, Romances moving, Love powerful, and Men are — Villains. Then it happen'd, that Three young Gentlemen from the University coming into the Country, and being benighted, and Strangers, call'd at my Father's : He was very glad of their Company, and offer'd them the Entertainment of his House.

Parl. Which they accepted, no doubt : Oh ! these strouling Collegians are never Abroad, but upon some Mischief.

Lure. They had some private Frolick or Design in their Heads, as appear'd

by their not naming one another; which, my Father perceiving, out of Civility, made no Enquiry into their Affairs: Two of them had a heavy, pedantic, University-Air, a sort of disagreeable Scholastick Boorishness in their Behaviour: but the Third!

Parl. Ay! the Third, *Madam*,—the Third of all things they say, is very Critical.

Lure. He was—but in short, Nature cut him out for my Undoing;—he seem'd to be about Eighteen.

Parl. A Fit Match for your Fifteen as cou'd be.

Lure. He had a Genteel Sweetness in his Face, a Graceful Comeliness in his Person, and his Tongue was fit to sooth soft Innocence to ruine: His very Looks were Witty, and his expressive Eyes softer Prettier things than Words cou'd frame.

Parl. There will be Mischief by and by; I never heard a Woman Talk so much of Eyes, but there were Tears presently after.

Lure. His Discourse was directed to my Father, but his Looks to me. After Supper I went to my Chamber, and Read *Cassandra*, then went to bed, and Dreamt of him all Night; rose in the Morning, and made Verses, so fell Desperately in Love—my Father was so pleas'd with his Conversation, that he begg'd their Company next day; they consecrated, and next Night, *Parly*—

Parl. Ay, next Night, *Madam*,—next Night (I'm afraid) was a Night indeed.

Lure. He brib'd my Maid, with his Gold, out of her Honesty; and me, with his Rhetorick, out of my Honour---she admitted him to my Chamber, and there he Vow'd, and Swore, and Wep't, and Sigh'd—and Conquer'd. [Weeps.

Parl. Alak-a-day, poor Fifteen! [Weeps.

Lure. He Swore that he wou'd come down from *Oxford* in a Fortnight, and Marry me.

Parl. The old Bait! the old bait—I was Cheated just so my self. [Aside. But had not you the Wit to know his Name all this while?

Lure. Alas! What Wit had Innocence like mine? he told me that he was under an Obligation to his Companions of Concealing himself then, but that he wou'd Write to me in two Days, and let me know his Name and Quality. After all the Binding Oaths of Constancy, Joyning Hands, Exchanging Hearts, I gave him a Ring, with this Motto, *Love and Honour*; then we parted; but I never saw the Dear Deceiver more.

Parl. No, nor never will, I warrant you.

Lure. I need not tell my Griefs, which my Father's Death made a fair Pretence for; he left me sole Heiress and Executrix to Three thousand Pounds a Year; at last my Love for this single Dissembler, turn'd to a hatred of the whole Sex, and resolving to divert my Melancholy, and make my large Fortune subservient to my Pleasure and Revenge, I went to Travel, where, in most Courts of Europe, I have done some Execution: Here I will play my last Scene; then retire to my Country House, live solitarie, and die a Penitent.

Parl. But don't you still love this dear Dissembler?

Lure. Most certainly: 'Tis Love of him that keeps my Anger warm, representing the Baseness of *Mankind* full in View; and makes my Resentments work.—We shall have that old impotent Lecher Smuggler here to Night: I have a Plot to swinge him, and his precise Nephew *Vizard*.

Parl. I think, *Madam*, you manage every Body that comes in your way.

Lure. No, *Parly*: those Men, whose Pretensions I found just and honourable, I fairly dismiss, by letting them know my firm Resolutions never to Marry. But those Villains that wou'd attempt my Honour, I've seldom fail'd to manage.

Parl. What d'ye think of the Colonel, *Madam*? I suppose his Designs are honourable.

Lure. That Man's a Riddle; There's something of Honour in his Temper that pleases: I'm sure he Loves me too, because he's soon jealous, and soon satisfied: But he's a Man still. — When I once try'd his Pulse about *Marriage*, his Blood ran as low as a Cowards: He Swore indeed that he lov'd me, but cou'd not Marry me, forsooth, because he was Engag'd elsewhere. So poor a Pretence made me disdain his Passion, which otherwise might have been uneasie to me — But hang him, I have Teiz'd him enough: — Besides, *Parly*, I begin to be tir'd of my Revenge; — But this Buss and Guinea I must Maul once more: I'll Hansel his Woman's Cloaths for him. Go, get me Pen and Ink; I must Write to *Wizard* too.

Fortune, this once, *Assist me*, as before.

Two such Machines can never Work in vain,
As thy Propitious VVheell, and my Projecting Brain.

The End of the Third ACT.

A C T I V.

S C E N E Covent-Garden.

Wildair and Standard Meeting.

Stand. I Thought, Sir *Harry*, to have met you 'ere this in a more convenient Place; but since my Wrongs were without Ceremony, my Revenge shall be so too. Draw, Sir.

VVild. Draw, Sir! What shall I Draw?

Stand. Come, come, Sir; I like your Facetions Humour well enough: It shows Courage and Unconcern: I know you Brave; and therefore use you thus. Draw your Sword.

Wild. Nay, to oblige you I will Draw: But the Devil take me if I Fight — Perhaps, Colonel, this is the prettiest Blade you have seen.

Stand. I doubt not but the Arm is good; and therefore think both worth my Resentment. Come, Sir.

Wild. But, prithee Colonel, dost think that I am such a Mad-man as to send my Soul to the Devil, and my Body to the Worms upon every Fools Errand?

Stand. I hope you're no Coward, Sir.

Wild. Coward, Sir; I have Eight thousand pounds a Year, Sir.

Stand. You

Stand. You Fought in Flanders to my Knowledge.

Wild. Ay, for the same Reason that I wore a Red-Coat, Because 'twas fashionable.

Stand. Sir, you Fought a French Count in Paris.

Wild. True, Sir; He was a Beau, like my self: Now you're a Souldier, Colonel, and Fighting's your Trade; And I think it down-right Madness to contend with any Man in his Profession.

Stand. Come, Sir, no more dallying: I shall take very unseemly Methods if you don't show your self a Gentleman.

Wild. A Gentleman! Why there agen now. A Gentleman! I tell you once more, Colonel, that I am a Baronet, and have Eight thousand pounds a Year. I can Dance, Sing, Ride, Fence, understand the Languages. Now, I can't conceive how Running you through the Body shou'd contribute one jot more to my Gentility. But, pray Colonel, I had forgot to Ask you, What's the Quarrel?

Stand. A Woman, Sir. Wild. Then I put up my Sword. Take her.

Stand. Sir, my Honour's concern'd.

Wild. Nay, if your Honour be concern'd with a Woman, get it out of her Hands as soon as you can. An honourable Lover is the greatest Slave in Nature; some will say, the greatest Fool. Come, come, Colonel, this is something about the Lady *Lurewell*, I warrant; I can give you satisfaction in that Affair.

Stand. Do so then inniediatly.

WWild. Put up your Sword first: You know I dare fight: But I had much rather make you a Friend than an Enemy. I can assure you this Lady will prove too hard for one of your Temper. You have too much Honour, too much in Conscience, to be a Favourite with the Ladies.

Stand. I am assur'd, Sir, she never gave you any Encouragement.—

WWild. A Man can never hear Reason with a Sword in his Hand. Sheath your Weapon; and then if I don't satisfie you, sheath it in my Body.

Stand. Give me but Demonstration of her granting you any Favour, and 'tis enough.

WWild. Will you take my Word?

Stand. Pardon me, Sir, I cannot.

Wild. Will you believe your own Eyes?

Stand. 'Tis ten to one whether I shall or no: They have deceiv'd me already.

Wild. That's hard.—But some means I shall devise for your Satisfaction.

— We must fly this Place; else that Cluster of Mobb will overwhelm us.

(Exeunt.

Enter Mobb, Tom Errand's Wife burrying in Clincher Senior in Errands Cloaths.

WWife. O, the Villain, the Rogue, he has Murder'd my Husband: Ah, my poor *Timothy*! (Crying.

Clin. Dem your *Timothy*:—Your Husband has Murder'd me, Woman: For he has carry'd away my Fine Jubilee Cloaths.

Wife. Ah, you Get-Throat, Have you not got his Cloaths upon your Back there?—Neighbours, Don't you know poor *Timothy*'s Coat and Apron?

Mobb. Ay, ay; 'tis the same.

Wife.

First Mobb.

First Mobb. What shall we do with him, Neighbours?

Second Mobb. We'll pull him in pieces.

First Mobb. No, no; then we may be hang'd for Murder; but we'll drown him.

Clin. Ah, good People, pray don't drown me; for I never learnt to swim in all my Life. Ah, this plangy Intreigning!

Mobb. Away with him, away with him to the *Thames*.

Clin. Oh, if I had but my *Swimming Girdle* now.

Enter Constable.

Const. Hold, Neighbours, I command the *Peace*.

Wife. O, Mr. Constable, here's a Rogue that has murder'd my Husband, and robb'd him of his Cloaths.

Const. Murder and Robbery! then he must be a Gentleman. Hands off there, he must not be abus'd.---Give an *Account* of your self: Are you a Gentleman?

Clin. No, Sir, I am a Beau.

Const. Then you have kill'd no body, I'm perswaded. How came you by these Cloaths, Sir?

Clin. You must know, Sir, that walking along, Sir, I don't know how, Sir; I can't tell where, Sir; and—so the Porter and I chang'd Cloaths, Sir.

Const. Very well, the Man speaks Reason, and like a Gentleman.

Wife. But pray Mr. Constable, ask him how he chang'd Cloaths with him.

Const. Silence, Woman, and don't disturb the Court.—Well, Sir, how did you change Cloaths?

Clin. Why, Sir, he pull'd off my Coat, and I drew off his: So I puts on his Coat, and he puts on mine.

Const. Why Neighbours, I don't find that he's guilty: Search him; and if he carries no Arms about him, we'll let him go.

(They search his Pockets, and pull out his Pistols.)

Clin. O *Gemini*! my Jubilee Pistols.

Const. What, a *Case* of Pistols? Then the *Case* is plain. Speak, what are you, Sir? whence come you, and whither go you?

Clin. Sir, I came from, *Russel-Street*, and am going to the Jubilee.

Wife. You shall go to the Gallows, you Rogue.

Const. Away with him, away with him to Newgate straight.

Clin. I shall go to the Jubilee now indeed.

(Exeunt.)

Re-enter Wildair and Standard.

Wild. In short, Colonel, 'tis all Nonsense: Fight for a Woman! Hard by is the *Lady's House*; if you please, we'll wait on her together: You shall draw your Sword; I'll draw my Snush-Box: You shall produce your Wounds receiv'd in War; I'll relate mine by *Cupid's Dart*:—You shall look big; I'll ogle:—You shall swear; I'll sigh:—You shall *fa, fa*, and I'll *coursee*; And if she flies not to my Arms, like a Hawk to its Pearch, my Dancing-Master deserves to be damn'd.

Stand. With the generality of Women, I grant you, these Arts may prevail.

Wild. Generality of Women! Why there agen you're out. They're all alike, Sir: I never heard of any one that was particular, but one.

Stand. Who was she, pray?

Wild. *Penelope*, I think she's call'd; and that's a Poetical Story too. When will you find a Poet in our Age make a Woman so chaste?

Stand. Well, Sir *Harry*, your facetious Humour can disguise Falshood, and make Calumny pass for Satyr: But you have promis'd me Ocular Demonstration that she favours you: Make that good, and I shall then maintain Faith and Female to be as inconsistent as Truth and Falshood.

Wild. Nay, by what you have told me, I am satisfied she imposes on us all: And *Wizard* too seems what I still suspected him: But his Honesty once mistrusted, spoils his Knavery:--But will you be convinc'd if our Plot succeeds?

Stand. I rely on your Word and Honour, Sir *Harry*; which, if I doubted, my Distrust wou'd cancel the Obligation of their Security.

Wild. Then meet me half an hour hence at the *Rummer*: You must oblige me by taking a hearty Glass with me toward the fitting me out for a certain Project, which, this Night, I undertake.

Stand. I guess, by the Preparation, that Woman's the Design.

Wild. Yes, Faith,--I am taken dangerously ill with two Foolish Maladies, Modesty and Love; the first I'll cure with *Burgundy*, and my Love, by a Night's Lodging with the Damsel. A sure Remedy. *Probatum est.*

Stand. I'll certainly meet you, Sir. (Exeunt severally.)

Enter *Clincher Junior* and *Dicky*.

Clin. Ah! *Dicky*, this *London* is a sad Place, a sad vicious Place: I wish that I were in the Country aye: And this Brother of mine! I'm sorry he's so great a Rake: I had rather see him Dead, than see him thus.

Dick. Ay, Sir; He'll spend his whole Estate at this same Jubilee. Who, d'ye think lives at this same Jubilee?

Clin. Who, pray? *Dick.* The Pope.

Clin. The Devil he does! My Brother go the Place where the Pope dwells: he's Bewitch'd sure.

Enter *Tom Errand* in *Clicher Senior's Cloaths*.

Dick. Indeed I believe he is, for he's strangely alter'd.

Clin. Alter'd! Why he looks like a Jesuit already.

Erra. This Lace will sell. What a Blockhead was the Fellow to trust me with his Coat! If I can get cross the Garden, down to the Water-side, I'm pretty secure. [Aside.]

Clin. Brother!—Alaw! O *Gemini*? Are you my Brother?

Dick. I seize you in the King's Name, Sir.

Erra. O Lord, Shou'd this prove some Parliament-Man now!

Clin. Speak, you Rogue, What are you?

Erra. A poor Porter, Sir, and going of an Errand.

Dick. What Errand? Speak you Rogue.

Erra. A Fool's Errand, I'm afraid.

Clin. Who sent you? *Erra.* A Beau, Sir.

Dick. No, no, the Rogue has murder'd your Brother, and stript him of his Cloaths.

Clin. Murder'd my Brother! O *Crimini*! O my poor Jubilee Brother!—Stay, by *Jupiter Ammon*, I'm Heir tho': speak *Sirrah*, Have you kill'd him? Confess that you have kill'd him, and I'll give you Half a Crown.

Erra. Who I, Sir? alack-aday, Sir, I never kill'd any Man, but a Carrier's Horse once.

Clin. Then you shall certainly be Hang'd but confess that you kill'd him.

The Constant Couple.

Erra. Telling the Truth hangs a Man, but confessing a Lye can do no harm; besides, if the worst comes to the worst, I can but deny it agen—— Well, Sir, since I must tell you, I did kill him.

Clin. Here's your Money, Sir, —— but are you sure you kill'd him dead.

Erra. Sir, I'll swear it before an Judge in *England*.

Dick. But are you sure that he's *Dead in Law*.

Erra. Dead in Law! I can't tell whether he be *Dead in Law*.

But he's as dead as a Door Nail; for I gave him seven knocks on the Head with a Hammer.

Dick. Then you have the Estate by the Statute.

Any Man that's knock'd o'th' Head is *Dead in Law*.

Clin. But are you sure he was *Compos Mentis* when he was kill'd.

Erra. I suppose he was, Sir, for he told me nothing to the contrary afterwards.

Clin. Hey! — then I go to the *Jubilee* — Strip, Sir, strip.

By *Jupiter Ammon* strip.

Dick. Ah! don't swear, Sir.

[*Puts on his Brother's Cloaths*.

Clin. Swear, Sir, Zoons, han't I got the Estate, Sir? Come, Sir, now I'm in Mourning for my Brother.

Erra. I hope you'll let me go now, Sir.

Clin. Yes, yes, Sir, but you must first do me the Favour, to swear positively before a Magistrate, that you kill'd him dead, that I may enter upon the Estate without any Trouble. By *Jupiter Ammon* all my Religion's gone, since I put on these fine Cloaths — Hey, call me a Coach somebody.

Erra. Ay, Master, let me go, and I'll call one immediately.

Clin. No, no, *Dicky*, carry this Spark before a Justice, and when he has made Oath, you may discharge him.

And I'll go see *Angelica*.

[*Exeunt Dick and Errand*.

Now that I'm an Elder Brother, I'll Court, and Swear, and Rant, and Rake, and go to the *Jubilee* with the best of them.

[*Exit*,

SCENE Lurewell's House.

Enter Lurewell and Party.

Lure. Are you sure that *Vizard* had my Letter.

Part. Yes, yes, Madam, one of your Ladyships Footmen gave it to him in the Park, and he told the Bearer, with all transports of Joy, that he wo'd be punctual to a Minute.

Lure. Thus most Villains, some time or other, are punctual to their Ruine and Hypocrisie, by imposing on the World, at last deceives it self. Are all things prepar'd for his Reception.

Part. Exactly to your Ladyships Order, the Alderman too is just come, dress'd and cook'd up for Iniquity.

Lure. Then he has got Woman's Cloaths on.

Part. Yes, Madam, and has pass'd upon the Family for your Nurse.

The Constant Couple.

Lure. Convey him into that Closet, and put out the Candles, and tell him, I'll wait one him presently. [As Parly goes to put out the Candle, somebody Knocks.

Lure. This must be some Clown without Manners, or a Gentleman above Ceremony. Who's there?

Wild. Sings.

*Thus Damon knock'd at Celia's Door,
He sigh'd, and beg'd, and wept, and swore,
The Sign was so,*

[Knocks]

She answer'd, No

[Knocks thrice]

No, no, no.

*Again he sigh'd, again he pray'd,
No, Damon, no, I am afraid,
Consider, Damon, I'm a Maid,
Consider,*

No,

I'm a Maid.

No, &c.

*At last his Sighs and Tears made way,
She rose, and softly turn'd the Key.
Come in, said she, but do not stay.*

I may conclude

You will be rude,

But if you are, you may.

Enters.

[Exit. Parly.

Lure. 'Tis too early for Serenading, Sir Harry.

Wild. Wheresoever Love is, there Musick is proper, there's an harmonious consent in their Natures, and when rightly joyn'd, they make up the Chorus of Earthly Happiness.

Lure. But, Sir Harry, what Tempest drives you here at this Hour.

Wild. No Tempest, Madam, but as fair Weather as ever entic'd a Citizens Wife to Cuckold her Husband in fresh Air.

Love, Madam.

[Wild. taking her by the Hand.

Lure. As pure and white as Angels soft desires, is't not so?

Wild. Fierce, as when ripe consenting Beauty Fires.

Lure. O Villain! what Priviledge has Man to our Destruction, that thus they hunt our Ruine? [Aside] If this be a Love Token, [Wild. drops a Ring,] your Mistresses Favours hang very loose about you, Sir. [She takes it up.]

Wild. I can't justly Madam, pay your Trouble of taking it up by any thing, but desiring you to wear it.

Lure. You Gentlemen have the cunningest ways of playing the Fool, and are so industrious in your Profuseness. Speak seriously, am I beholding to Chance or Design for this Ring?

Wild. To design upon my Honour, and I hope my Design will succeed.

Lure. And what shall I give you for such a fine thing.

Wild. You'll give me another, you'll give me another fine thing.

[Aside.

{Both

{Sing.

Lure. Shall

The Constant Couple.

Lure. Shall I be free with you, Sir Harry?

Wild. With all my Heart, Madam, so I may be free with you.

Lure. Then plainly, Sir, I shall beg the favour to see you some other time, for at this very Minute I have two Lovers in the House.

Wild. Then to be as plain, I must be gone this Minute, for I must see another Mistress within these two Hours.

Lure. Frank and free.

Wild. As you with me—Madam, your most humble Servant. [Exit.

Lure. Nothing can disturb his Humour. Now for my Merchant and Vizard. [Exit, and takes the Candles with her.

Enter Party, leading in Smugler, dress'd in Woman's Cloaths.

Parl. This way, Mr. Alderman.

Smug. Well, Mrs. Party,—I'm oblig'd to you for this Trouble, here are a couple of Shillings for you. Times are hard, very hard indeed, but next time I'll steal a pair of silk Stockings from my Wife, and bring them to you—What are you fumbling about my Pockets for—?

Parl. Only settling the Pleats of your Gown, here, Sir; get into this Closet, and my Lady will wait on you presently.

[Puts him into the Closet, runs out, and returns with Vizard.

Viz. Where would'st thou lead me, my dear auspicious little Pilot?

Parl. You're almost in Port, Sir, my Lady's in the Closet, and will come out to you immediately.

Viz. Let me thank thee as I ought.

Parl. Pshaw! who has hir'd me best? a couple of Shillings, and a couple of Kisses. [Exit.

Viz. Propitious Darkness guides the Lovers Steps, and Night that shadows outward Sense, lights up our inward Joy. Night! the great awful Ruler of Mankind, which, like the *Persian* Monarch, hides i's Royalty to raise the Veneration of the World. Under thy easie Reign Dissemblers may speak Truth, all slavish Forms and Ceremonies laid aside, and generous Villany may act without Constraint.

Smug. peeping out of the Closet.] Bless me! what Voice is this?

Viz. Our hungry Appetites, like the wild Beasts of Prey, now scour abroad, to gorge their craving Maws; the pleasure of Hypocrisy, like a chain'd Lyon, once broke loose, wildly indulges its new Freedom, ranging through all unbounded Joys.

Smug. My Nephew's Voice! and certainly possess'd with an Evil Spirit, he talk as prophanely, as an Actor possess'd with a Poet.

Viz. Ha! I hear a Voice, Madam,—my Life, my Happiness, where are you, Madam?

Smug. Madam! he takes me for a Woman too, I'll try him. Where have you left your Sanctity, Mr. Vizard?

Viz. Talk no more of that ungrateful Subject—I left it where it has only business, with Day-light, 'tis needless to wear a Mask in the Dark.

Smug. O the Rogue, the Rogue!—The World takes you for a very sober virtuous Gentleman.

Viz. Ay, Madam, that adds Security to all my Pleasures—with me a Cully-Squire may squander his Estate, and ne'er be thought a Spend-thrift—

The Constant Couple.

With me a Holy Elder may zealously be drunk, and toast his tuneful Nose in Sack, to make it hold forth clearer——But what is most my Praise, the formal Rigid, he that rails at Vice and Men, with me secures her loosest Pleasures, and her strictest Honour——she who with scornful Mien, and virtuous Pride, despairs the Name of Whore, with me can Wanton, and laugh at the deluded World.

Smug. How have I been deceiv'd! then you are very great among the Ladies.

Viz. Yes, Madam, they know that, like a Mole in the Earth, I dig deep but invisible, not like those fluttering noisie Sinners, whose Pleasure is the proclamation of their Faults, whose empty Flashes, who no sooner kindle, but they must blaze to alarm the World. But come, Madam, you delay our Pleasures.

Smug. He surely takes me for the Lady *Lurewell*——she has made him an Appointment too——but I'll be reveng'd of both——Well, Sir, what are those you are so intimate with.

Viz. Come, come, Madam, you know very well——those who stand so high, that the vulgar envy even their Crimes, whose Figure adds priviledge to their Sin, and makes it pass unquestion'd; fair, high, pamper'd Females, whose speaking Eyes, and piercing Voice, wou'd arm the Statue of a Stoick, and animate his cold Marble with the Soul of an *Epicure*, all ravishing, lovely, soft, and kind, like you.

Smug. I am very lovely and soft indeed, you shall find me much harder than you imagine, Friend——Well, Sir, but I suppose your Dissimulation has some other Motive besides Pleasure.

Viz. Yes, Madam, the honestest Motive in the World Interest——you must know, Madam, that I have an old Uncle, Alderman *Smuggler*, you have seen him, I suppose.

Smug. Yes, yes, I have some small Acquaintance with him.

Viz. 'Tis the most knavish, precise, covetous old Rogue, that ever died of a Gout.

Smug. Ah! the young Son of a Whore. Well, Sir, and what of him?

Viz. Hell hungers not more for wretched Souls, than he for ill-got Pelf——and yet (what's wonderful) he that wou'd stick at no profitable Villainy himself, loves Holiness in another——he prays all *Sunday* for the Sins of the Week past——he spends all Dinner-time in two tedious Graces, and what he designs a Blessing to the Meat, proves a Curse to his Family——he's the most——

Smug. Well, well, Sir, I know him very well.

Viz. Then, Madam, he has a swinging Estate, which I design to Purchase as a Saint, and spend like a Gentleman. He got it by Cheating, and shou'd lose it by Deceit. By the pretence of my Zeal and Sobriety, I'll cozen the old Miser one of these Days out of a Settlement, and Deed of Conveyance——

Smug. It shall be a Deed to convey you to the Gallows then, you young Dng. [Aside.]

Viz. And no sooner he's Dead, but I'll rattle over his Grave with a Coach and Six, to inform his covetous Ghost how genteely I spend his Money.

Smug. I'll prevent you, Boy, for I'll have my Money bury'd with me. [Aside.]

Viz. Bless me, Madam, here's a Light coming this way, I must fly immediately, when shall I see you, Madam.

Smug. Sooner than you expect, my Dear.

Viz. Pardon me, dear Madam, I wou'd not be seen for the World. I wou'd sooner forfeit my Life, nay, my Pleasure, than my Reputation. [Exit.]

Smug. Reputation! Reputation! that poor Word suffers a great deal— Well! thou art the most accomplish'd Hypocrite that ever made a grave plodding Face over a Dish of Coffee, and a Pipe of Tobacco; he owes me for seven Years maintenance, and shall pay me by seven Years Imprisonment: and when I die, I'll leave him to the Fee-simple of a Rope and a Shilling— Who are these? I begin to be afraid of some Mischief—I wish that I were safe within the City Liberties—I'll hide my self. [Stands close.]

Enter Butler, with other Servants and Lights.

But. I say there are two Spoons wanting, and I'll search the whole House, — Two Spoons will be no small gap in my Quarters Wages —

Serv. When did you miss them, James?

But. Miss them. Why, I miss them now; in short they must be among you, and if you don't return them, I'll go to the Cunning-Man to Morrow-Morning; my Spoons I want, and my Spoons I will have.

Serv. Come, come, search about. [Search and discover Smugler.] Ah! who's this?

But. Hark'ee, good Woman, what makes you hide your self? What are you ashamed of.

Smug. Ashamed of! O Lord, Sir, I'm an honest Old Woman that never was ashamed of any thing.

But. What are you, a Midwife then? Speak, did not you see a couple of Stray Spoons in your Travels?

Smug. Stray Spoons!

But. Ay, ay, Stray Spoons; in short you stole them and I'll shake your old Limbs to pieces; if you don't deliver them presently.

Smug. Bless me! a Reverend Elder of Seventy Years old accus'd for Petty-Laceny! — why, search me, good People, search me, and if you find any Spoons about me, you shall burn me for a Witch.

But. Ay, ay, we will search you Mistress.

[They search and pull the Spoons out of his Pockets.]

Smug. Oh! the Devil, the Devil!

But. Where, where is he? Lord bleſſ us, she is a Witch in good earnest, may be.

Smug. O, it was some Devil, some Covent-Garden, or St. James's Devil, that put them in my Pocket.

But. Ay, ay, you shall be hang'd for a Thief, burnt for a Witch, and then carted for a Bawd. Speak, what are you?

Enter Lurewell.

Smug. I'm the Lady Lurewell's Nurse.

Lure. What Noise is this?

But. Here is an old *Succubus*, Madam, that has stole two silver Spoons, and says, she's your Nurse.

Lure. My Nurse! O the Impudent old Jade, I never saw the wither'd Creature before.

Smug. Then I'm finely caught. O Madam! Madam! I'm a poor old woman.

Lure. Was ever such Impudence? I know thee! why thou'rt as Brazen as a Bawd in the Side-Box——Take her before a Justice, and then to Newgate, away.

Smug. O! consider, Madam, that I'm an Alderman.

Lure. Consider, Sir, that you're a Compound of Covetousness, Hypocrisy, and Knavery; and must be punish'd accordingly——You must be in Petticoats, Gouty Monster, must ye! You must Bals and Guinea too, you must tempt a Ladies Honour, old Satyr, away with him. [Hurry him off.

Still may our Sex thus Frauds of Men oppose,

Still may our Arts delude these tempting Foes.

May Honour Rule, and never fall betray'd,

But Vice be caught in Nets for Virtue laid.

The End of the Fourth ACT.

A C T. V.

S C E N E, *Lady Darling's House.*

Darling and Angelica.

Darling. **D**augter, since you have to deal with a Man of so peculiar a Temper, you must not think the general Arts of Love can secure him; you may therefore allow such a Courtier some Encouragement extraordinary, without reproach to your Modesty.

Angel. I am sensible, *Madam*, that a formal Nicety makes our Modesty, fit awkward, and appears rather a Chain to Enslave, than Bracelet to Adorn us——It shou'd show, when unmolested, easie and innocent as a Dove, but strong and vigorous as a Faulcon, when assaulted.

Darl. I'm afraid, Daughter, you mistake Sir *Harry's* Gaiety for Dishonour.

Angel. Tho' Modesty, *Madam*, may Wink, it must not Sleep, when powerful Enemies are abroad——I must confess, that of all Mens, I wou'd not see Sir *Harry Wildair's* Faults; nay, I cou'd wrest his most suspicious Words a thousand ways, to make them look like Honour——but, *Madam*, in spight of Love I must hate him, and curse those Practices which taint our Nobility, and rob all virtuous Women of the bravest Men——

Darl. You must certainly be mistaken, *Angelica*, for I'm satisfy'd Sir *Harry's* designs are only to court and marry you.

Angel. His pretence, perhaps, was such, but Women now, like Enemies, are attack'd; whether by Treachery, or fairly Conquer'd, the Glory of Triumph is the same——Pray, *Madam*, by what means were you made acquainted with his Designs?

Darl. Means, Child! why my Cousin *Vizard*, who, I'm sure is your sincere, Friend, sent him. He brought me this Letter from my Cousin——

[Gives her the Letter, which she opens.

Angel. Ha! Wizard! then I'm abus'd in earnest—wou'd Sir Harry, by his Instigation, fix a base Affront upon me? no, I can't suspect him of so ungentle a Crime—this Letter shall trace the Truth—[Aside.] my Suspicions, Madam, are much clear'd, and I hope to satisfie your Ladyship in my Management, when next I see Sir Harry.

Enter Servant.

Serv. Madam, here's a Gentleman below calls himself Wildair.

Darl. Conduct him up. Daughter, I wont doubt your discretion.

[Exit. Darling.

Enter Wildair.

Wild. O the Delights of Love and Burgundy---! Madam, I have toasted your Ladyship fifteen Bumpers successively, and swallow'd Cupids like Loches, to every Glass.

Ang. And what then, Sir?

Wild. Why then, Madam, the Wine has got into my Head; and the Cupids into my Heart: and unless by quenching quick my Flame, you kindly ease the Smart, I'm a lost Man, Madam.

Ang. Drunkenness, Sir Harry, is the worst Pretence a Gentleman can make for Rudeness: For the Excuse is as scandalous as the Fault:—Therefore pray consider who you are so free with, Sir; a Woman of Condition, that can call half a dozen Footmen upon Occasion.

Wild. Nay, Madam, if you have a mind to toss me in a Blanket, half a dozen Chamber-maids would do better Service.—Come, come, Madam, tho' the Wine makes me lisp, yet has it taught me to speak plainer. By all the Dust of my ancient Progenitors, I must this Night quarter my Coat of Arms with yours.

Angel. Nay then, who waits there?
Take hold of that mad Man, and bind him.

[Enter Footmen.

Wild. Nay, then Burgundy's the Word, and Slaughter will ensue. Hold, do you know, Scoundrels, that I have been drinking victorious Burgundy?
[draws.

Servants. We know you're drunke, Sir.

Wild. Then how have you the Impudence, Rascals, to assault a Gentleman with a couple of Flasks of Courage in his Head?

Servants. Sir, we must do as our young Mistriss commands us.

VWild. Nay, then, have among ye, Dogs.

(Throws Money among them: They scramble and take it up: He pelting them out, shuts the Door, and returns.

Rascals, Poultrons,—I have charm'd the Dragon, and now the Fruis my own.

Angel. O, the mercenary VVretches! This was a Plot to betray me.

Wild. I have put the whole Army to flight: And, now take the General Prisoner.
[Laying hold on her.

Angel. I conjure you, Sir, by the sacred Name of Honour, by your dead Father's Name, and the fair Reputation of your Mothers Chastity, that you offer not the least Offence.—Already you have wrong'd me past Redress.

Wild. Thou art the most unaccountable Creature.

Angel. VVhat Madness, Sir Harry, what wild Dreams of Moose Desire could prompt you to attempt this Baseness? View me well.—The Brightnes

of my Mind, methinks, should lighten outwards, and let you see your Mistake in my Behaviour. I think it shines with so much Innocence in my Face, that it shou'd dazzle all your vicious Thoughts : Think not I am defenceless 'cause alone. Your very self is Guard against your self : I'm sure there's something generous in your Soul ; My Words shall search it out, and Eyes shall fire it for my own Defence.

Wild. Mimicking) Tall-ti dum, ti dum, tall ti didi, didum.

A Million to one now, but this Girl is just come flush from reading the *Rival-Queens*—I gad, I'll at her in her own cant—

O my Statyra, O my Angry Dear, turn thy Eyes on me, behold thy Beau in Baskins.

Ang. Behold me, Sir, View me with a sober thought, free from those fumes of Wine that throw a mist before your Sight, and you shall find that every glance from my reproaching Eyes is arm'd with sharp Resentment, and with a virtuous Pride that looks dishonour dead.

Wild. This is the first Whore in *Heroicks* that I have met with, [Aside] look ye Madam, as to that slender particular of your Vertue, we shan't quarrel about it, you may be as Virtuous as any Woman in *England* if you please ; you may say your Prayers all the time——but pray, Madam, be pleas'd to consider what is this same Vertue that you make such a mighty Noise about——Can your Vertue bespeak you a front Row in the Boxes? No : for the Players can't live upon Vertue. Can your Vertue keep you a Coach and Six? no, no : your Virtuous Women walk a foot——Can your Vertue hire you a Pue in a Church? Why the very Sexton will tell you, no. Can your Vertue stake for you at Picquet? no. Then what business has a Woman with Vertue——Come, come, Madam, I offer'd you fifty Guinea's,—there's a hundred——the Devil! Virtuous still! Why 'tis a hundred, five score, a hundred Guinea's.

Ang. O Indignation! Were I a Man you durst not use me thus ; but the Mean, poor Abuse you throw on me, reflects upon you self, our Sex still strikes an awe upon the Brave, and only Cowards dare affront a Woman.

Wild. Affront! S'death, Madam, a hundred Guinea's will set you up at Bassett ; a hundred Guinea's will furnish out your Lodgings with China ; a hundred Guinea's will give you an Air of Quality ; a hundred Guinea's will buy you a rich Escritore for your Billet deux, or a fine Common-Prayer-Book for your Virtue. A hundred Guinea's will buy a hundred fine things, and fine things are for fine Ladies ; and fine Ladies are for fine Gentlemen ; and fine Gentlemen are——I Gad this Burgundy makes a Man speak like an Angel——Come, come, Madam, take it, and put it to what use you please.

Ang. I'll use it, as I wou'd the base unworthy Giver, thus.

[*Throws down the Purse, and stamps upon it.*

Wild. I have no mind to meddle in State Affairs ; but these Women will make me a Parliament Man, spight of my Teeth, on purpose to bring in a Bill against their Extortion. She tramples under Foot, that Deity which all the World adores.—O the blooming pride of beautiful Eighteen! P'shaw, I'll talk to her no longer, I'll make my Markets with the Old Gentlewoman, she knows Business better,——[*Goes to the Door*] here you friend, pray desire the Old Lady to walk in.—Harkee, by Gad, Madam, I'll tell your Mother.

Enter

Enter Darling.

Darl. Well, Sir *Harry*, and how d'ye like my Daughter, pray.

Wild. Like her Madam!—hearkee, Will you take it? Why faith *Madam*!—take the Money, I say, or I gad, all's out.

Ang. All shall out; Sir, you're a Scandal to the Name of Gentleman.

Wild. With all my Heart, *Madam*—in short, *Madam*, your Daughter has us'd me somewhat too familiarly, tho' I have treated her like a Woman of Quality.

Darl. How Sir?

Wild. Why, *Madam*, I have offer'd her a hundred Guineas.

Darl. A hundred Guinea's! upon what Score?

Wild. Upon what Score! Lord, Lord, how these Old Women love to hear Bawdy! Why faith, *Madam*, I have ne're a double Entandie ready at present, but I'll sing you a Song.

*Behold the Goldfinches, tall al de rall,
And a Man of my Inches, tall al de rall,
You shall take um believe me, tall al de rall,
If you will give me, your tall al de rall.*

A Modish Minuet *Madam*, that's all.

Darl. Sir, I don't understand you.

Wild. Ay, she will have it in plain Terms; then *Madam* in downright English, I offer'd your Daughter a hundred Guinea's, to—

Ang. Hold Sir, stop your abusive Tongue, too loose for Modest Ears to bear.—*Madam*, I did before suspect that his Designs were base, now they're too plain; this Knight, this Mighty Man of Wit and Humours, is made a Tool to a Knave; *Vizard* has sent him of a Bully's Errand, to affront a Woman; but I scorn the Abuse, and him that offer'd it.

Darl. How Sir, come to Affront us! D'ye know who we are, Sir?

Wild. Know who ye are? Why, your Daughter there is Mr. *Vizard*'s Cousin, I suppose;—and for you *Madam*—now to call her Procureress *Alamode France*. [Aside.] *J'estime botre Occupation.*

Darl. Pray Sir, speak *English*.

Wild. Then to define her Office, *Alamode Londres*! [Aside] I suppose your Ladyship to be one of those Civil, Obliging, Discreet, Old Gentlewomen, who keep their Visiting days for the Entertainment of their presenting Friends whom they treat with Imperial Tea, a private Room, and a pack of Cards. Now I suppose you do understand me.

Darl. This is beyond Sufferance; but say, thou abusive Man, what injury have you e're receiv'd from me or mine, thus to engage you in this scandalous Aspersion.

Ang. Yes, Sir, what cause, what Motives could induce you thus to debase your self below your Rank.

Wild. Hey day! Now Dear *Roxana*, and you my fair *Statyna*, be not so very Heroick in your Styles, *Vizard*'s Letter may resolve you, and affront all

Both Women. We appeal to that.

Wild. And I'll stand to't, he read it to me, and the Contents were pretty plain I thought.

Ang. Here Sir, peruse it, and see how much we are injur'd, and you deceiv'd.

Wild. *Opening the Letter.*] But hold, Madam, [to Darling] before I read, I'll make some Condition — Mr. Vizard says here, that I wont scruple 30 or 40 pieces; Now, Madam, if you have clapt in another Cypher to the account, and made it 3 or 4 Hundred, by Gad, I will not stand to't.

Ang. Now can't I tell whether Disdain or Anger be the most just Resentment for this Injury.

Darl. The Letter, Sir, shall answer you.

Wild. Well then! [Reads.]

Out of my Earnest Inclination to serve your Ladyship, and my Cousin Angelica,
— Ay, ay, the very Words, I can lay it by heart — *I have sent*
Sir Harry Wildair — *to court my Cousin.* — What the Devil's this?
Sent Sir Harry Wildair to court my Cousin — he read to me a quite
different thing — *He's a Gentleman of great Parts and Fortune.* —

He's a Son of a Whore and a Rascal, — and wou'd make your Daughter very Happy, [Whistles] in a Husband. [Looks foolish, and bums a Song.] Oh poor Sir Harry, what have thy angry Stars design'd?

Ang. Now Sir, I hope you need no Instigation to Redress our Wrongs, since even the Injury points the way.

Darl. Think you, that our Blood for many Generations, has run in the purest Channels, unfullly'd Honour.

Wild. Ay, Madam, [Bows to her.]

Ang. Consider, what a tender Blossom is Female Reputation, which the least Air of foul Detraction blasts.

Wild. Yes, Madam. [Bows to t'other.]

Darl. Call then to mind your rude and scandalous Behaviour.

Wild. Right, Madam. [Bows again.]

Ang. Remember the base price you offer'd me.

[Exit.]

Wild. Very true, Madam, was ever Man so Catechis'd.

Darl. Then think that, Vizard, Villain Vizard caus'd all this, yet lives, that's all, farewell. [Going.]

Wild. Stay, Madam, [to Darling] one Word, is there no other way to redress your Wrongs, but by Fighting.

Darl. Only one, Sir; which, if you can think of, you may do: you know the business I entertain'd you for.

Wild. I understand you, Madam. [Exit. Darling.] Here am I brought to a very pretty Dilemma; I must commit Murder, or commit Matrimony, which is best now? A License from *Doctors Commons*, or a Sentence from the *Old Bailey*? If I kill my Man, the Law hangs me; if I marry my Woman, I shall hang my self; — but, Dam it, — Cowards dare fight, I'll marry, that's the most daring Action of the two, so my dear Cousin Angelica, have at you.

SCENE Newgate, Clincher Senior solus.

Clin. **H**ow Severe and Melancholy are *Newgate Reflections*? Last Week my Father died: Yesterday I turn'd Beau: To day I am laid by the heels, and to Morrow shall be hung by the Neck—I was agreeing with a Bookseller about Printing an Account of my Journey through France to Italy; But now, the History of my Travels thro' Holborn to Tyborn, — *The last-dying Speech of Beau Clincher, that was going to the Jubilee.* — Come, a Half-penny a piece. A sad Sound, a sad Sound, 'Faith. 'Tis one Way to have a Man's Death make a Great Noise in the World.

Enter Smuggler and Goaler.

Smug. Well, Friend, I have told you who I am: So send these Letters into Thames-street, as directed; they are to Gentlemen that will Bail me. [Exit Goaler

Eh! this *Newgate* is a very Populous Place: Here's Robbery and Repentance in every Corner. — Well, Friend, What are you, a Cut-throat, or a Bum-Bayliff?

Clin. What are you, *Mistress*, a Bawd, or a Witch? Hearke, if you are a VVitch, d'ye see, I'll give you a Hundred Pounds to mount me on a Broom-staff, and whip me away to the *Jubilee*.

Smug. The *Jubilee*! O, you young Rake-hell, VVhat brought you here?

Clin. Ah, you Old Rogue, What brought you here, if you go to that?

Smug. I knew, Sir, what your Powdering, your Prinking, your Dancing, and your Frisking wou'd come to.

Clin. And I knew what your Cozening, your Extortion, and your Smuggling wou'd come to.

Smug. Ay, Sir, you must break your Indentures, and run to the Devil in a full Bottom-Wig, must you?

Clin. Ay, Sir, and you must put off your Gravity, and run to the Devil in Petticoats: — You design to Swing in Masquerade, Master, d'ye.

Smug. Ay, you must go to Plays too, Sirrah: Lord, Lord! What Business has a Prentice at a Play-house, unless it be to hear his Master made a Cuckold, and his Mistress a VVhore? 'Tis ten to one now, but some malicious Poet has my Character upon the Stage within this Month: 'Tis a hard matter now, that an honest sober *Man* can't Sin in private for this Plagu'd Stage. I gave an honest Gentleman Five Guineas my self towards VVriting a Book against it: And it has done no good, we see.

Clin. Well, well, Master, take Courage; our Comfort is, we have liv'd together, and shall die together, only with this difference, that I have liv'd like a Fool, and shall die like a Knavé: and you have liv'd like a Knavé, and shall die like a Fool.

Smug. No, Sirrah! I have sent a *Messenger* for my Cloaths, and shall get out immediately, and shall be upon your Jury by and by. — Go to Prayers, you Rogue, go to Prayers. [Exit Smug.

Clin. Prayers! 'Tis a hard taking, when a Man must say Grace to the Gallows. — Ah, this Cursed Intriguing! Had I Swung handsomely in a Silken Garter now, I had died in my Duty; but to Hang in Hemp, like the

The Constant Couple.

Enter Tom Errand.

A Reprieve, a Reprieve, thou dear, dear——darn'd Rogue, Where have you been? Thou art the most welcome——Son of a Whore, Where's my Cloaths?

Erra. Sir, I see where mine are: Come, Sir, strip, Sir, strip.

Clin. What Sir, will you abuse a Gentleman?

Erra. A Gentleman! ha, ha, ha, D'ye know where you are, Sir? We're all Gentlemen here, — I stand up for Liberty and Property. — Newgate's a Common-wealth. No Courtier has Business among us; Come, Sir.

Clin. Well, but stay, stay till I send for my own Cloaths: I shall get out presently.

Erra. No, no, Sir, I'll have you into the Dungeon, and uncase you.

Clin. Sir, you can't master me; for I'm twenty thousand strong.

[Exeunt struggling.

The SCENE changes to Lady Darling's House.

Enter Wildair with Letters, Servants following.

Wild. **H**ere, fly all around, and bear these as directed; you to Westminster, --- you to St. James's — and you into the City. — Tell all my Friends a Bridegroom's Joy invites their Presence: Look all of ye like Bridegrooms also: All appear with hospitable Looks, and bear a welcome in your Faces. — Tell 'em I'm married. If any ask to whom, make no Reply; but tell 'em that I'm married, that Joy shall crown the Day, and Love the Night. Be gone, fly.

Enter Standard.

A thousand Welcomes, Friend: my Pleasure's now compleat, since I can share it with my Friend: Brisk Joy shall bound from me to you: Then back again; and, like the Sun, grow warmer by Reflexion.

Stand. You're always pleasant, Sir Harry; but this transcends your self; Whence proceeds it?

Wild. Canst thou not guess? my Friend — whence flows all Earthly Joy? What is the Life of Man, and Soul of Pleasure? — Woman — What fires the Heart with Transport, and the Soul with Raptures? Lovely Woman. — What is the Master stroak and Smile of the Creation, but Charming Virtuous Woman? — When Nature in the general Composition first brought Woman forth, like a flush'd Poet, ravish'd with his Fancy, with Extasie: The blest, the fair Production — Methinks, my Friend, you relish not my Joy. What is the Cause?

Stand. Canst thou not guess? — What is the Bane of Man, and Scourge of Life, but Woman? — What is the Heathenish Idol Man sets up, and is damn'd for worshipping Treacherous Woman? — What are those whose Eyes, like Basilisks, shine beautiful for sure Destruction, whose Smiles are dangerous as the Grin of Fiends? But false deluding Woman — Woman, whose Composition inverts Humanity; their Body's Heavenly, but their Souls are Clay.

Wild. Come, come, Colonel, this is too much: I know your Wrongs receiv'd from Lurewell, may excuse your Resentments against her: But 'tis unpardonable to charge the Failings of a single Woman upoa the whole Sex. —

The Constant Couple.

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Stand. So have I, Sir Harry; I have found one whose Pride's above yielding to a Prince: And if Lying, Dissembling, Perjury and Falshood be no Breaches in Woman's Honour, she's as innocent as Infancy.

Wild. Well, Colonel, I find your Opinion grows stronger by Opposition, I shall now therefore wave the Argument, and only beg you for this Day to make a Show of Complaisance at least. —— Here comes my Charming Bride.

Enter Darling and Angelica.

Stand. Saluting Angelica. I wish you, Madam, all the Joys of Love and Fortune.

Enter Clincher junior.

Clin. Gentlemen and Ladies, I'm just upon the Spur, and have only a Minute to take my Leave.

Wild. Whether are you bound, Sir?

Clin. Bound Sir! I'm going to the Jubilee, Sir.

Darl. Bless me, Cousin! how came ye by these Cloaths?

Clin. Cloaths! Ha, ha, ha, the rarest Jest! Ha, ha, ha, I shall burst, by Jupiter Ammon, I shall burst.

Darl. What's the Matter, Cousin?

Clin. The matter! Ha, ha, ha: Why an honest Porter, ha, ha, ha, has knock'd out my Brother's Brains, ha, ha, ha.

Wild. A very good Jest, i'faith, ha, ha, ha.

Clin. Ay Sir, but the best Jest of all is, he knock'd out his Brains with a Hammer, and so he is as dead as a Door-nail, ha, ha, ha.

Darl. And do you laugh, Wretch?

Clin. Laugh! ha, ha, ha, Let me see e're a younger Brother in England that won't laugh at such a Jest.

Ang. You appear'd a very sober Pious Gentleman some Hours ago.

Clin. P'shaw, I was a Fool then: But now, Madam, I'm a Wit: I can take now. —— As for your part, Madam, you might have had me once: — But now, Madam, if you shou'd chance fall to eating Chalk, or knawing the Sheets, 'tis none of my Fault — Now, Madam — I have got an Estate, and I must go to the Jubilee.

Enter Clincher senior in a Blanket.

Clin. sen. Must you so, Rogue, must you? — you will go to the Jubilee, will you?

Clin. jun. A Ghost, a Ghost! — Send for the Dean and Chapter presently.

Clin. sen. A Ghost! no, no, Sirrah, I'm an Elder Brother; Rogue.

Clin. jun. I don't care a Farthing for that; I'm sure you're Dead in Law.

Clin. sen. Why so, Sirrah, why so?

Clin. jun. Because, Sir, I can get a Fellow to swear he knock'd out your Brains.

Wild. An odd way of swearing a Man out of his Life.

Clin. jun. Smell him, Gentlemen, he has a deadly Scent about him —

Clin. sen. Truly the apprehensions of Death may have made me favour a little — O Lord — the Colonel! the apprehension of him may make me favour worse, I'm afraid.

Clin. jun. In short, Sir, were you Ghost, or Brother, or Devil, I will go to

Stand. Go to the Jubilee! go to the Bear-Garden— The Travel of such Fools as you, doubly Injures our Country, you expose our Native Follies, which Ridicules us amongst Strangers, and return fraught only with their Vices, which you vend here for Fashionable Gallantry ; a Travelling Fool is as dangerous as a Home-bred Villain —— Get ye to your Native Plough and Cart, Converse with Animals, like your selves, Sheep and Oxen; Men are Creatures you don't understand.

Wild. Let 'em alone, Colonel, their Folly will be now diverting. Come, Gentlemen, we'll dispute this Point some other time; I hear some Fiddles Tuning; let's hear how they can Entertain us: Be pleas'd to sit.

Here Singing and Dancing. After which a Servant Whispers Wildair.

Wild. Madam, Shall I beg you to Entertain the Company in the next Room for a Moment? [To Darling.

Darl. With all my Heart—Come, Gentlemen. [Ex. Omnes but Wild.

Wild. A Lady to Enquire for me! Who can this be?

Enter Lurewell.

O, Madam, this Favour is beyond my Expectation, to come Uninvited to Dance at my Wedding—Whit d'ye gaze at, Madam?

Lure. A Monster—if thou art Marry'd, thou'rt the most Perjur'd Wretch that e're avouch'd Deceit.

Wild. Hey day! Why, Madam, I'm sure I never Swore to Marry you, I made indeed a slight Promise, upon Condition of your granting me a Small Favour, but you would not Consent, you know.

Lure. How he upbraids me with my Shame— Can you deny your Binding Vows when this appears a Witness 'gainst your Falshood. [Shows a Ring. Methinks the Motto of this Sacred Pledge shou'd flash Confusion in your guilty Face— Read, read here the Binding Words of Love and Honour; Words not unknown to your Perfidious Eyes—tho' utter Strangers to your Treach'rous Heart.

Wild. The Woman's stark staring Mad, that's certain.

Lure. Was it Maliciously design'd to let me find my Misery when past redress; to let me know you, only to know you False—had not Cursed Chance shou'd me the Surprizing Motto, I had been happy—The first Knowledge I had of you was fatal to me, and this second worse.

Wild. What the Devil's all this! Madam, I'm not at leisure for Raillery at present, I have Weighty Affairs upon my Hands; the Busi'nes of Pleasure; Madam, any other time—

Lure. Stay, I Conjure you, stay.

Wild. Faith, I can't, my Bride expects me; but, hark'ee, when the Honey-Moon is over, about a Month or two hence, I may do you a small Favour.

Lure. Grant me some Wild Expressions, Heaven's, or I shall Burst—Woman's Weakness, Man's Falshood, my own Shame, and Love's Disdain, at once swell up my Breast—Words, Winds, or I shall burst. [Gomg.

Enter Standard.

Stand. Stay, Major, you need not shun my sight; for if you are perfect

Woman, you have Confidence to out-face a Crime, and bear the Charge of Guilt without a Blush.

Lure. The charge of Guilt! What, making a Fool of you? I've don't, and glory in the Act, the height of Female Justice were to make you all hang or drown, dissembling to the prejudice of Men is Virtue; and every Look, or Sign, or Smile, or Tear, that can deceive, is Meritorious.

Stand. Very pretty Principles truly—if there be Truth in Woman, 'tis now in thee—Come, *Madam*, you know that you're discover'd; and, being sensible, you can't escape, you wou'd now turn to Bay.

That Ring, *Madam*, proclaims you Guilty.

Lure. O Monster, Villain, perfidious Villain! Has he told you?

Stand. I'll tell it you, and loudly too.

Lure. O name it not—yes, speak it out, 'tis so just Punishment for putting Faith in Man, that I will bear it all; and let credulous Maids that trust their Honour to the Tongues of Men, thus hear their Shame proclaim'd— Speak now, what his basie Scandal, and your improving Malice both dare utter.

Stand. Your Falshood can't be reach'd by Malice, nor by Satyr; your Actions are the justest Libel on your Fame—your Words, your Looks, your Tears, I did believe in spight of common Fame. Nay, 'gainst my own Eyes, I still maintain'd your Truth. I imagin'd *Villain's* boasting of your Favours to be the pure result of his own Vanity: at last he urg'd your taking Presents of him, as a convincing Proof of which, you Yesterday, from him, receiv'd that Ring— which Ring, that I might be sure he gave it, I sent him for that purpose.

Lure. Ha! you lent him for that purpose!

Stand. Yes, yes, *Madam*, I lent him for that purpose—no denying it—I know it well, for I have worn it long, and desire you now, *Madam*, to restore it to the just Owner.

Lure. The just Owner, think Sir, think but of what importance 'tis to own it, if you have Love and Honour in your Soul, 'tis then most justly yours, if not, you are a Robber, and have stolen it basely.

Stand. Ha—your Words, like meeting Flints, have struck a Light to show me something strange—but tell me instantly, is not your real Name *Manly*?

Lure. Answer me first, did not you receive this Ring about Twelve Years ago?

Stand. I did.

Lure. And were not you about that time entertain'd two Nights at the House of Sir Oliver *Manly* in *Oxfordshire*?

Stand. I was, I was, [runs to her, and embraces her] the blest remembrance fires my Soul with transport—I know the rest—you are the charming She, and I the Happy Man.

Lure. How has blind Fortune stumbled on the right?—But where have you wander'd since, 'twas cruel to forsake me.

Stand. The particulars of my Fortune were too tedious now, but to discharge my self from the stain of Dishonour, I must tell you, that immediately upon my return to the University, my Elder Brother and I quarrel'd; my Father, to prevent further Mischief, posts me away to *Travet*: I witt to you from *London*, but fear the Letter came not to your Habbit.

Lure. I never had the least account of you, by Letter or otherwise.

Stand. Three Years I lived abroad, and at my Return, found you were gone out of the Kingdom, tho' none cou'd tell me whither; missing you thus, I went to *Flanders*, serv'd my King 'till the Peace commenc'd; then fortunately going on Board at *Amsterdam*, one Ship transported us both to *England*. At the first sight I lov'd, tho' ignorant of the hidden Cause— You may remember, *Madam*, that talking once of Marriage, I told you I was engag'd; to your dear self I meant.

Lure. Then Men are still most Generous and Brave——and to reward your Truth, an Estate of Three Thousand Pounds a Year waits your acceptance; and if I can satisfie you in my past Conduct, and the reasons that engag'd me to deceive all Men, I shall expect the honourable performance of your Promise, and that you wou'd stay with me in *England*.

Stand. Stay, not Fame, nor Glory, e're shall part us more. My Honour can be no where more concern'd than here.

Enter Wildair, Angelica, both Clinchers.

Oh, Sir *Harry*, Fortune has acted Miracles, the Story's strange and tedious, but all amounts to this. That Woman's Mind is charming as her Person, and I am made a Convert too to Beauty.

Wild. I wanted only this to make my Pleasure perfect.

Enter Smuggler.

Smug. So, Gentlemen and Ladies, is my Gracious Nephew *Vizard* among ye?

Wild. Sir, he dares not show his Face among such Honourable Company, for your Gracious Nephew is——

Smug. What, Sir? Have a care what you say.

Wild. A Villain, Sir.

Smug. With all my Heart——I'll pardon you the beating me for that very Word. And pray, Sir *Harry*, when you see him next, tell him this News from me, that I have Disinherited him, that I will leave him as poor as a disbanded Quarter-Master. And this is the positive and stiff Resolution of Threescore and Ten; an Age that sticks as obstinately to its Purpose, as of the old Fashion of its Cloak.

Wild. You see, Madam, [to *Angel.*] how industriously Fortune has punisht his Offence to you.

Angel. I can scarcely, Sir, reckon it an Offence, considering the happy Consequence of it.

Smug. O, Sir *Harry*, he's as Hypocritical——

Lure. As your self, Mr. Alderman: How fares my good old Nurse, pray Sir?

Smug. O, *Madam*, I shall be even with you before I part with your Writings and Money, that I have in my Hands.

Stand. A word with you, Mr. Alderman, Do you know this Pocket-Book?

Smug. O Lord, it contains an Account of all my secret Practices in Trading [Aside.] how came you by it, Sir.

Stand. Sir *Harry* here dusted it out of your Pocket, at this Lady's House, yesterday: It contains an Account of some secret Practices in your Merchantizing; among the rest, the Counterpart of an Agreement with a Correspondent

spondent at Bowdoin, about Transporting French Wine in Spanish Casks—
First return this Lady all her Writings, then I shall consider, whether I shall
lay your Proceedings before the Parliament or not, whose Justice will never
suffer your Smuggling to go unpunish'd.

Smug. O my poor Ship and Cargo.

Clin. Sen. Hark'ee, Master, you had as good come along with me to the
Jubilee now.

Angel. Come, Mr. Alderman, for once let a Woman Advise; Wou'd you
be thought an Honest Man, banish Covetousness, that worst Gout of Age;
Avarice is a poor pilfering quality of the Soul, and will as certainly Cheat,
as a Thief wou'd Steal—

VVou'd you be thought a Reformer of the Times, be less severe in your Cen-
sures, less rigid in your Precepts, and more strict in your Example.

VVild. Right, Madam, Virtue flows free from Imitation, than Compulsion,
of which, Colonel, your Conversion and mine are just Examples.

*In vain are Musty Morals Taught in Schools,
By Rigid Teachers, and as Rigid Rules ;
VVhere Virtue, with a Frowning Aspect stands,
And frights the Pupil from its rough Commands.
But VVoman—*

*Charming Woman can true Converts make,
VVe love the Precepts for the Teachers sake.
Virtue in them appears so bright, so gay,
We bear with Transport, and with Pride obey.*

E P I

AN ELOGIE, Spoken by Mr. Wilks,

Now all depart, each his respective way,
To spend an Evening's Chat upon the Play;

Some to Hippolito's, one homeward goes,
And one, with loving fits, retires to the Rose.

The amorous Pair, in all things frank and free,
Perhaps may save the Play, in number three.

The tearing Spark, if Phillis ought glinstays,
Breaks the Drawer's Head, kicks her, and murders Bays.

To Coffee some retreat to save their Pockets,
Others more generous damn the Play at Lockets.

But there, I hope, the Author's Fears are vain,
Malice ne'er spoke in generous Champain.

That Poet merits an ignoble Death,
Who fears to fall over a brave Monteth.

The Privilege of Wine we only ask,
You'll taste again, before you damn the Flask.

Our Author fears not you; but those he may,
Who, in cold Blood, murder a Man in Tea.

Those Men of Spleen, who fond the World should know it,
Sit down, and for their two pence damn a Poet.

Their Criticism's good, that we can say for't,
They understand a Play—too well to pay for't.

From Box to Stage, from Stage to Box they run,
First steal the Play, then damn it, when they've done.

But now to know what Fate may us betide,
Among our Friends in Cornhil and Cheapside:

But those I think have but one Rule for Plays;
They'll say they're good, if so the World says.

If it should please them, and their Spouses know it,
They straight enquire what kind of Man's the Poet.

But from Side-box we dread a fearful Doom,
All the good-natur'd Beaux are gone to Rome.

The Ladies Censure I'd almost forgot,
Then for a Line or two to engage their Vote:

But that way's old, below our Author's Aim,
No less than his whole Play is Complement to them.

For their sakes then the Play can't miss succeeding,
Tho' Criticks may want Wit, they have good Breeding.

They won't, I'm sure, forfeit the Ladies Graces,
By shewing their ill-nature to their Faces.

Our Business, with good Manners, may be done,
Flaunt us here, and damn us when you're gone.

